FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 MARCH 1987

Tunisia's Decision To Break Relations With Iran

A government communique broadcast by Tunis radio 26 March announced Tunisia's decision to sever relations with Iran because of the latter's "flagrant violation" of diplomatic norms by using its embassy in Tunis as a center that "commits acts detrimental to public security." Investigations have shown that the embassy's "dubious activities" included attempts to establish "organized relations" with Tunisian "sectarians and extremists" and to use "propaganda and financial inducements" to lure "abnormal citizens" into carrying out activities aimed at creating ideological confusion, chaos, and sedition inside Tunisia. The communique also accused the Iranians of seeking to undermine the good relations between Tunisia and other friendly countries, adding that Iranian activities in this regard include delegating some "won-over elements" in the Tunisian community abroad to carry out acts contrary to international law.

The Tunisian government announcement followed the recent arrest of Tunisian terrorist suspects in Djibouti and Paris, as well as a visit to Baghdad by Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk. The six Tunisians arrested in the French capital 21 March were among a group of eight people described by Paris radio as "very big fish." The group may be linked with terrorist attacks in Paris over the last year, the radio noted, and it includes a French national of Lebanese origin who is one of the founders of Hizballah. As for Mabrouk's visit to Baghdad, INA noted that the Tunisian minister expressed his country's solidarity with Iraq during a 25 March meeting with President Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi foreign minister subsequently welcomed Tunisia's "daring" decision to break relations with Iran, according to INA.

However, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Tehran radio viewed Tunisia's allegations as "false and baseless," adding that Tunisia failed to offer any evidence or proof to substantiate its charges against the Iranian Embassy. The real reason why Tunisia broke relations was because it is fearful of the growth of the Islamic movement, the spokesman contended.

Mitterrand in Algeria, Comment on Chad

Francois Mitterrand discussed bilateral and international issues with President Chadli Bendjedid in Algiers 26 March, Algiers radio reported, noting the French president's statement that his visit was "short but successful." In remarks broadcast by Paris radio after the talks, Mitterrand confirmed that both France and Algeria are taking an active part in working for reconciliation between Chadian leaders Hissein Habre and Goukouni Oueddei, and he said that Libyan protests about events in Chad are of "little significance." On the military situation in Chad, the radio disclosed that Chadian forces have surrounded Faya-Largeau but a sandstorm has prevented their assault on the town

Libya

Suggestions by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for an improvement in Libya's economic performance included a call for a return to private enterprise in small-scale service industries. Addressing people's committee officials in a speech broadcast by Tripoli television, the Libyan leader said that any private enterprise has an element of exploitation, "but when it becomes a necessary service, we accept this exploitation." He said that people should be allowed to own cafes, restaurants, hotels, and other services provided they do not employ others. Private shops could also be established as long as they are not owned by people who engaged in trade in the past. Al-Qadhdhafi acknowledged that the present system of trade has produced a "bad and serious" situation in which people queue for food, pay high prices, and can find little to buy with their money.

Col al-Qadhdhafi also called for changes in other sectors of the economy to improve efficiency and productivity. Farming families should be allowed to establish mutual partnerships in order to boost production, he said, and light industries should be taken out of state ownership and owned by their workers. Light industries are in a state of decline and paralysis, their production is poor, and their workers are careless and apathetic, he asserted. He added that heavy industries should remain state-owned as they are generally operating well. Stressing that his proposals are based on the Green Book principle that people should be partners but not wage earners, Al-Qadhdhafi attributed some of the present problems to "certain exaggerated applications" of the Green Book and he noted that the Book did not say that participation must be with the state.

Israeli Policy on USSR

Israeli policy on seeking normal relations with the Soviet Union should not be linked with the problem of Jewish emigration from the USSR, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. He told visiting U.S. Jews that the two issues are separate and mixing them up could make the Soviet Jews "hostages" to Israel's policy in the Middle East. Shamir's statement was a "major change" in policy as Israel has previously insisted on linking the two issues, the radio noted.

Lebanon

Plight of U.S. Hostage — Alann Steen is dying from hemiparesis and other afflictions, fellow hostage Jesse Turner warned in a video message sent by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) to a Beirut newspaper. Turner's message, which was reported by AFP, urged the United States and Israel to ask the IJLP to send the list of Arab prisoners it wants released from Israeli jails.

Security — Palestinian sources cited by Voice of Lebanon radio stated that six people were killed when Amal Movement gunmen

fired at Palestinian women near Burj al-Barajinah. Beirut radio reported a spate of explosions in West Beirut following the execution by Syrian forces of three people who had attacked a Syrian position.

DRA-Pakistan

DRA planes launched another raid inside Pakistan 26 March, killing five Afghan refugees and wounding eight in the Teri Mangal area, Karachi radio reported. A Pakistani official cited by the radio said his country intends to acquire an early warning system so that Pakistan can take defensive action against intruding aircraft.

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'Text' of Tripoli Document on PLO Unity

LD261217 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 26 Mar 87

["The Tripoli Document" — JANA Headline]

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Al-Marrikh (JANA) — PNC Chairman Brother Khalid al-Fahum read the Tripoli Document for the Restoration of PLO Unity at a news conference in Tripoli yesterday given by the detachments of the Palestinian resistance. The following is the text:

The Tripoli Document for the Restoration of the PLO [subhead]

At the invitation of Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great al-Fatih revolution, the following met in Tripoli between 19 and 23 March 1987: PNC Chairman Brother Khalid al-Fahum; the PFLP; the PFLP-GC; the Popular Struggle Front; the DFLP; the Palestinian Liberation Front; and Fatah — the Revolutionary Council.

The participants had high praise for the unionist efforts of Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to restore the unity of the PLO. The conferees agreed on the following:

The political side: the PLO on the Arab and international level: efforts for the restoration of unity; the Algerian initiative; Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's call; the Soviet efforts. Proceeding from the need to have all detachments, forces, and personalities work together for the restoration of the PLO on an anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist, and anti-capitulationist foundation, we propose the following as a base for dialogue, a base from which the leaders controlling the PLO have deviated:

On the Palestinian Level [subhead]

1. Loyalty to the National Charter and the resolutions of the legitimate national councils until the 16th session;

2. Adherence to the political plan of action and the plan for repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of an independent national state on Palestinian soil;

3. Adherence to the PLO as our people's sole and legitimate representative without agents, deputies, or sharing in that representation; continuation of the struggle with all its forms, foremost of which is the armed struggle, the main form of our people's fight; condemnation of the Cairo declaration and an appeal for the opening of Arab borders for the Palestinian resistance;

4. Rejection of all plans of liquidation, like the "Camp David Accords," "The Reagan Plan," "Administrative Autonomy," and "Function Sharing;"

5. The open and official abrogation of the Amman Agreement of 11 February 1985;

6. Adherence to the resolutions of the Arab summits that were unanimously agreed upon, especially those of the 1974 Rabat summit and the 1978 Baghdad summit;

7. Rejection of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as they deny the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state, and because they treat the Palestinian problem as one of refugees;

8. Cessation of all diplomatic relations with the Egyptian regime as long as the latter is committed to the Camp David accords, and consolidation of ties with the Egyptian Arab people and its dynamic forces fighting against normalization and the peace treaty with the Zionist enemy;

9. Promotion of all forms of coordination and joint action in the occupied territories; closing ranks of the masses of our peoples and consolidating their national institutions in confrontation with the Zionist occupation and its oppressive measures; opposing efforts to create hireling artificial alternatives to the PLO;

10. Collective action among all Palestinian nationalist forces to organize the situation at our camps in Lebanon, to protect their internal unity, and to defend them.

On the Arab Level [subhead]

1. The consolidation of the Palestinian-Syrian alliance for struggle and the promotion of allied and fraternal ties with Syria on the basis of the common fight against Zionist and imperialist plans and defeatist solutions;

2. The strengthening of the alliance among the factions and forces of the Arab nationalist liberation movement;

3. The bolstering of the alliance between the PLO and the Arab nationalist and progressive regimes: Libya, Algeria, Aden [as received], Syria;

4. The consolidation of the nationalist Lebanese-Palestinian alliance, its development with Lebanese progressive and nationalist forces, and the promotion of this alliance with Syria; support for the fight waged by Lebanese nationalists to free the invaded portion of their country; the rejection of Phalangist plans for hegemony; the securing of Lebanon's freedom, Arab character, and independence, and the victory of the nationalist project;

5. The organization of relations between the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist forces to protect the security of our masses and our camps; the securing of and insistence on their social and civil rights; adherence to its nationalist rights in organization, political action, the carrying of arms, and enrollment in the ranks of the revolution.

6. Support for Arab solidarity on the basis of commitment to the nationalist struggle against Zionism and Israel; confrontation of imperialist projects and defeatist solutions; backing for the Palestinian people's fight to fulfil their nationalist rights, foremost of which are the rights to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state;

7. The establishment of relations between the PLO and the Arab states on the basis of mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs.

On the International Level [subhead]

1. As an indivisible part of the Arab national and international liberation movement, the PLO is extremely anxious to develop and consolidate ties of cooperation and alliance with the socialist countries led by the USSR.

2. The PLO supports the convocation of an international conference to deal with the Middle East crisis and its core, the Palestine question. This gathering is to be attended by the PLO as an independent party on an equal footing with all others, in accordance with the Soviet Government's initiative of 29 July 1984 to block partial or unilateral solutions.

3. The PLO would cooperate with the nonaligned countries and the OAU and the ICO and would consolidate the anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist, and anti-racist line in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

4. Along with the armed struggle, the political and mass struggle should be escalated to win the widest support from the ranks of the international public and from the countries of the world for the Palestinian people's right to return, to exercise self-determination, and to have an independent state of their own. We also seek to win greater support for the PLO's right to be our people's sole f dependent representative and to enjoy broader international recognition as our sole legitimate representative.

On the Organizational Level [subhead]

To put an end to the domination and unilateral political decision-making within the PLO, for it is a national front in need of a reliable collective leadership that can be trusted with the national line and will perform its work democratically, the following are to be used:

A) The PNC:

1. The expansion of the PNC Bureau:

2. The enjoyment by the resistance movement detachments, including "Fatah — the Revolutionary Council," "Fatah — the Upsurge," and the Palestinian Communist Party, of the right to membership in the PNC, along with differentiation between detachments with the same names, and the exertion of efforts to unite them if possible and to encourage unity between any two or more groups. The number of representatives from each detachment will be fixed through dialogue.

3. The amendment of the PLO statute to encompass all the reforms agreed upon.

B) The Central Council:

1. The Central Council should be elected directly by the PNC and from among its members in accordance with a resolution specifying the bases of its composition.

2. The Central Council should have decisionmaking powers.

3. The Council should have the power to bring the Executive Committee to task regarding the implementation of the PNC's resolution. The Council shall have the right to freeze the membership of up to one-third of the Executive Committee members.

4. The Council shall form permanent active working committees from among members of the PNC on a frontal basis.

5. The work of the Central Council shall be carried out in accordance with internal bylaws, which would form part of the basic statute.

C) The Executive Committee:

1. All recognized national forces and detachments of the PNC shall be part of the Executive Committee.

2. The Executive Committee shall elect its vice chairmen, whose tasks and powers shall be defined in the Executive Committee's bylaws.

3. A Secretariat General shall be formed to represent a collective working leadership responsible for all day-to-day decisions affecting organizational, political, financial, and military matters between meetings of the Executive Committee. This shall apply provided the members of the Secretariat General do not exceed one-third of the number of members of the Executive Committee.

4. The Executive Committee shall form from among its members ad hoc committees to supervise political matters and affairs of the occupied homeland, "including the policy of enhancing steadfastness," and Lebanon.

5. The PNC shall draw up the bylaws for the organization of the Executive Committee, which will become part of the basic statute.

D) The Popular Unions:

1. The unity of the popular unions will be safeguarded and their role activated in the field of relations with the masses, together with adherence to frontal action within their ranks.

2. The unity of the popular unions will be restored in line with their regulations and internal bylaws.

E) The PLO Departments and Institutions:

1. Reexamining the organization of the PLO departments, bureaus, representations, and institutions on frontal bases that consider nationalist commitment and competence;

2. The formation by the Executive Committee of a special body to study the state of the departments, bureaus, representations, and institutions in a way that guarantees the development of their efficiency and performance according to Paragraph 1 above and the presentation of their recommendations on this to the Executive Committee.

F) [no subhead as received]

1. The upcoming PNC session is considered a unifying one on the basis of the membership of the 16th session. Some members will be dropped and others will be added, if agreed upon at the dialogue table among the nationalist factions and personalities and the representatives of the popular organizations, with regard to the frontal character of the popular organizations' delegates in the PNC.

2. This will be viewed as the formation of the Seventh National Council. Its first session will be called "The Unifying Session."

Positions: [subhead]

1. The Democratic Front rejected Paragraph B in Clause 6, and its main reason was that it would lead to the extension of the sixth council by 3 years.

2. Brother Khalid al-Fahum had reservations about Clause 6 with its two paragraphs, due to adherence to the internal statute of the PLO and because he believes the Amman session is not legal on the organizational or political levels.

3. The Revolutionary Council (?agreed on) the clause with its two paragraphs on the condition that Paragraph B does not constitute an obstacle to national unity.

Political and Organizational Constants of National Unity [subhead]

A. Political:

1. The open and official abrogation of the Amman Agreement;

2. The rejection of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338;

3. A stop to political relations with the "Camp David" regime.

B. Organizational:

1. All the organizational clauses from Clause 1 to Clause 5;

2. Paragraph A in Clause 6;

The Attitudes [subhead]

The PFLP-GC considers all organizational clauses — including Paragraph B — of Clause 6 as constants.

The Dialogue [subhead]

Attitudes vis-a-vis the comprehensive dialogue have been determined as follows:

The PFLP-GC:

A) The Amman Agreement should be annulled by the party that signed it — the Executive Committee arising from the splinter council — in advance and before the dialogue begins.

B) A statement should be issued by the Executive Committee and the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement breaking relations with the Camp David regime before the dialogue opens. This is due to the fact that they contravene PNC resolutions and should not be brought to the dialogue table.

The Palestine Liberation Front:

A) The Amman Agreement should be abolished, with the understanding that this take place at the initial session of the dialogue. This is so provided the abolition be announced by Brother Yasir 'Arafat with an Arab guarantee.

B) Relations with the Camp David regime should be severed during the dialogue and prior to arrival at the PNC.

Fatah — the Revolutionary Council:

A) The same view as that of the Palestine Liberation Front on the condition that this matter be guaranteed by President Chadli Bendjedid and Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi before the dialogue;

B) An end to relations with the Camp David regime during the dialogue and to stress this in the resolutions of the National Council.

The PFLP:

A) We fight for the public and official abrogation of the Amman Agreement prior to the dialogue, but we are prepared to accept the accord's open and official abolition at the first round of the dialogue if this is accompanied by Arab guarantees.

B) We share the views expressed by the Palestine Liberation Front and Fatah — the Revolutionary Council.

The DFLP:

A) I endorse what Brother Dr George Habash said — that is, I share the attitude of the PFLP.

B) I hold the same view expressed by the brothers in the PFLP and the Palestine Liberation Front.

The Popular Struggle Front:

A) The abolition of the Amman Agreement should be made publicly and officially by the Fatah Movement Central Committee before the dialogue begins.

B) Prior to the dialogue the Fatah Movement Central Committee should announce the cessation of relations with the Egyptian regime until the latter repudiates the Camp David accords.

Brother Khalid al-Fahum:

A) The same view as that of the Popular Struggle Front.

B) The same view as that of the Popular Struggle Front.

Note: The PFLP-GC expressed reservations concerning Clause 2 of the Organizational Aspect and demanded that the Palestinian Communist Party — the Provisional Leadership — Arabi Awwad — be added to the detachments with the right of membership in the PNC.

The brothers in the PFLP-GC and the Fatah — the Revolutionary Council — also voiced reservations regarding the clause on the international conference.

23 March 1987

Brother Khalid al-Fahhum

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — the General Command

The Palestine Liberation Front

Fatah — the Revolutionary Council.

Palestinian Leaders Comment on Tripoli Talks

LD261040 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0735 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 26 Al-Marrikh (JANA) — Detachments of the Palestinian revolution and PNC Chairman Brother Khalid al-Fahum held a news conference in Tripoli yesterday. They used the session to announce the Tripoli Document for the Recovery of PLO Unity. [passage omitted]

Brother Khalid al-Fahum emphasized at the news conference that he was not surprised Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was insisting on Palestinian national unity. After all, he is a nationalist Arab leader who places pan-Arab interests above those of any specific country, and in his view, the Palestinian cause is a fundamental and central issue.

He said: We laud his attempts to unite the Palestinian factions and call on him to make further efforts to achieve the brotherhood and complete unity of the PLO and Palestinian resistance.

Brother Nayif Hawatmah said the DFLP will rally around the nationalist initiative taken by Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of people's power and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history.

He added: We also declared our decisive support for all the organizational and political directives outlined by the brother leader in his interview with the Palestinian press, which was published in the latest edition of *Al-Hurriyah* .

He noted: We will discuss all the issues proposed for dialogue to unite the Palestinian revolutionary factions and escalate the armed struggle.

He stressed that he responded to the call for unity from brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and to his blessed efforts throughout a full week of meetings with the six factions, in addition to his work with the Fatah Central Committee. PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash explained that the initiative for unity launched by leader Al-Qadhdhafi is not limited to theoretical unity, but also includes the leader's practical efforts to translate this initiative into reality.

He added that during the factions' meetings in Tripoli, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi participated in the successful unification of the positions held by the six factions present in Tripoli without interfering in their differences. He said the efforts in Tripoli and the meetings with Col al-Qadhdhafi had the merit of reaching agreement on organizational and political matters.

PNSF, DFLP Condemn Palestinian-Israeli Statement

JN270607 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] In Damascus, pro-Syrian Palestinian factions have condemned the joint communique issued by Palestinian and Israeli figures calling for an international peace conference on the Middle East. The PNSF and the DFLP described the communique, released at the King David Hotel, as a stab in the back to Palestinian unity and an insult to the Palestinian people. They explained that this document cast doubt on the Palestinians' right to return, to enjoy self-determination, and to establish an independent state of their own.

Fatah Uprising Denounces 'Arafat-Egypt Contacts

JN260754 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] In a press statement in Damascus, a responsible media source in the Fatah Uprising Movement has condemned the continuing contacts between the 'Arafatist clique and the Egyptian regime. The source called on Palestinian forces and the Arab liberation movement to be alert and on guard against the policy of meetings and dialogue involving the symbols of the deviationist line and against their failure to abandon the path of capitulation.

INTRA-GULF AFFAIRS

Further Details on Saudi-YAR Border Incident

NC270826 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 26 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] According to a well-informed Arab source in Beirut, a clash took place on the Saudi-YAR border 2 days ago. No casualties have been reported, but five Yemenis were forcibly taken to Saudi Arabia. The source did not specify if the five Yemenis were military personnel or civilians.

The clash occurred at a time of tension on the border between the two countries, which the source has attributed to the fact that Saudi Arabia is insisting that their common frontier be demarcated.

However, YAR President Colonel 'Ali Salih feels he cannot take such a step, for his country claims territory that Saudi Arabia also considers part of its national soil.

In addition, the YAR's complicated internal situation prevents any president from complying with the Saudi demand.

Saudi 'Sources' Deny Clash

NC271241 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Saudi sources have denied that a clash took place on the Saudi-YAR border or that Saudi soldiers kidnapped five YAR citizens.

According to these sources, Saudi border patrols arrested five YAR drug traffickers and handed them over to a YAR border patrol after interrogation.

BAHRAIN

PDRY's Al-'Attas Makes Statement, Departs

JN261110 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Manama, 26 Mar (WAKH) — Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, left Manama for Aden this morning following an official 2-day visit to Bahrain.

Leading those bidding farewell to the PDRY chairman upon his departure were Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah; the prime minister, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah; and a number of other ministers and senior Bahraini officials.

Al-'Attas held talks with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah on bilateral relations and ways to bolster them in various fields, in addition to current developments in the region, including the Iraq-Iran war, the latest Arab and international events, and issues of mutual interest. Earlier, Al-'Attas visited the UAE and Qatar.

Prior to his departure, Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas made a statement expressing satisfaction with the results of his trip to Bahrain. He pointed out that during his visit he held talks with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah on ties between the PDRY and Bahrain in various economic, trade, and cultural fields. He said they reviewed the situation in the Arab region, international affairs, and other questions of common concern.

Al-'Attas asserted that the talks were held in a cordial, fraternal atmosphere.

He expressed his belief that this visit represents an advanced step in bilateral relations and opens wide horizons for comprehensive cooperation in the interests of both countries and for the benefit of the region and its stability.

OMAN

State Minister Returns From Visit to Pakistan

JN261018 Doha QNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Muscat, 26 Mar (QNA) — Yusuf 'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, has returned to Muscat from Islamabad following a 2-day visit to Pakistan that included talks with senior officials there.

In a statement carried by Muscat radio after his return last night, Yusuf 'Alawi asserted that the Omani and Pakistani viewpoints were identical regarding the issues discussed during the trip.

In addition, the Omani minister conveyed a verbal message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman, to Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq on ways to bolster bilateral relations. Opinions were also exchanged on questions of common interest.

Sidqi: 'Rumors' Aim To Undermine National Unity

JN261627 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Mar 87 pp 1, 10

[By Muwaffaq Abu al-Nil]

[Excerpt] Aswan — Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has announced that the NDP represents all people. The party places all its potential at the service of all Egyptians, supporters and opponents, he said, adding that the Egyptian people are biased toward the NDP because it represents moderation and the independence of Egyptian decisionmaking. He added that total investments under the present 5-year development plan, which ends in June, have reached 40 billion Egyptian pounds in the public and governmental sectors. The coming 5-year development plan, he said, will be submitted to the competent sides in April and May for approval after the elections results.

In his meeting with the masses in the city of Idfu in Aswan, the prime minister said Egypt will not become a theater for sectarianism. As President Mubarak affirmed, the duty of every Egyptian is to fight this sedition and to nip it in the bud, he said, adding: We should not exploit the recent events as some people have. All achievements in Egypt were attained by the Muslims and Copts together, he added.

The prime minister said these rumors are aimed at undermining national unity. He said: The government and people will not allow this. The NDP's mission is to confront the sedition before it grows. We will not allow this sedition to grow, as President Mubarak said, because Egypt has always enjoyed unity between the two sectors of the nation — the Copts and Muslims. He added: We will not make this sedition greater than it is. Egypt has not differentiated between Muslims and Christians throughout its long history. We reject extremism and lean toward the NDP because it is the party of national unity. [passage omitted]

Political Parties Present Electoral Programs

NPUG Leader's Statement

NC242152 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Statement of NPUG electoral program read by party leader Khalid Muhyy al-Din — live or recorded]

[Summary] In 1984, the NPUG electoral program focused on attempts to extricate Egypt from its crisis. The method chosen was to solve the pressing problems affecting the Egyptian citizen, primarily the high cost of living and of basic services. The party faces the same crisis this time and the same shortage in financial resources. We have warned in the past against dependence on revenues coming from Egyptian expatriates. They are unstable, as are revenues produced by oil sales. "We are now facing the issue of the high cost of living. This is the major problem facing Egyptians. When the prices of all goods and services are high, the issue is linked to a financial problem affecting the society as a whole: the devaluated Egyptian pound." This has many causes, the most important of which is that budget deficits are covered simply by printing more banknotes. "The party believes it is necessary to depend on real resources." Our view is that Egypt can find the required resources and reduce the number of tax and customs exemptions, which should be limited to sectors vital to our national economy. "If the current upward trend in the cost of living continues, the average Egyptian will not be able to procure food or goods services. Our solution to the crisis, then, is to increase production and improve services".

"The public sector is the most important factor in industry and it must be freed from all restrictions. We must develop it, innovate its machinery, and provide it with the most sophisticated technology, provided that we also act to preserve the rights of the workers." "No industrial progress can be achieved in Egypt without developing the public sector." We have developed an integrated and comprehensive program to reform the public sector.

Another issue concerns those people working in the public sector and the government. "With the rise in prices, the minimum wage in the government and the public sector must be increased." Otherwise, the workers will resort to illegal means of acquiring additional income. "Reforming the public sector and the government is vital if industrial progress is to be made."

The issue of the rural areas also is important. How can we achieve progress in agriculture without a basic democratic cooperative movement? Cooperatives are our only means of developing our rural areas. We have a program to resolve the issue of food shortages. "We want to free major crops from forced pricing, so that the farmer may realize a greater gain and thereby have an incentive to grow these crops, instead of avoiding them."

We must also pay attention to the issue of the relationship between the landowner and the tenant. We have several suggestions in this regard. The issue of Egypt's rural areas occupies a large part of the NPUG's attention. "Egypt cannot make progress without developing its rural areas."

There is yet another problem: unemployment, particularly among university graduates. This problem affects every family in Egypt. Complete and comprehensive development is the basic solution. "An increase in the number of industrial, agricultural, construction, and transport projects must be stressed, because these projects provide employment." Some sectors are crowded, while others are underemployed. University graduates can take brief and concentrated courses to shift from one sector to another, in order to cover shortages.

Another important issue is the housing problem. We believe the number of rental units must be increased over privately owned housing. "The government must make a beginning in its own projects." There must be declared and just principles to govern the distribution of housing units, so that the most deserving, rather than the most influential, receive them.

The issue of village borders must be resolved quickly. People should know whether they can build in a certain area or not. The people want to know in which direction they can expand their villages.

How can we resolve all of these problems? Our basic tool is the Egyptian man, who can never work to solve problems unless he is convinced that the method to be employed is based on democracy. Thus, democratic reform is our means of achieving economic reform. "The administrative system of government plays a major role in improving services. The local governments control the improvement of services; hence, the need to reform the laws of local government. There must be a law allowing the election of local governments on an individual level, so that we can elect the best qualified individuals to control the administrative organ of the state." "The level of democracy of local governments plays a major role in reforming conditions in local areas."

New Wafd Party Program

NC250505 Cairo Television Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Statement on New Wafd Party electoral program, read by unidentified party official — live or recorded]

[Summary] The New Wafd Party presents this program with a pledge of commitment and a promise of implementation. The party believes true reform begins with the Egyptian citizen. His confidence in himself and his rulers must be restored.

"The party also declares its commitment to the principles, values, and concepts that have been entrenched in the conscience of the people. These are represented by democracy, socialism, national unity, social peace, public freedoms, and guaranteed human rights, the rights of the toiling masses of workers and peasants; and the party will do its best to bolster and advance them."

Egypt is experiencing a grave economic crisis; it is now importing more than 60 percent of its food. "A state that cannot produce its own bread cannot make its own decisions." Thus, support for economic independence is the main way to uphold political independence.

Economic prosperity depends on political stability, which in turn is based on democracy. Democracy brings salvation from our sufferings. The Neo-Wafd calls for real democracy, its top priority. "In order to reach the democracy we desire, the Neo-Wafd proposes the following: The present Constitution should be changed. A new constitution, modeled on the most up-to-date democratic systems, should be drawn up by a constituent assembly elected by the people." The Neo-Wafd believes the new constitution should entrench the authority of the people and limit that of the ruler. Every citizen should have the right to nominate himself for the presidency. The president should be directly elected by the people; the vice president should also be directly elected, rather than appointed by presidential decree. "The president and vice president should also relinquish their membership and leadership of political parties during their term of office."

The Neo-Wafd Party also calls for changes in the rules governing votes of confidence in the government. The people should have a voice in this through a referendum.

The People's Assembly must be given full powers over the national budget. The party also wants to see a separation between membership in the People's Assembly and membership in the government, and calls for the abolition of Article 74 of the Constitution, which has been abused. The party reiterates its demand for guaranteed human rights, plurality, and freedom of belief. The party rejects elections on the basis of proportional representation. There can be no going back on the republican system, socialism, agrarian reform, and the gains of the toiling masses. The party also believes that the Consultative Council should be given legislative and budgetary authority.

The Neo-Wafd declares that all laws of the past few years that contradict the spirit and letter of the Constitution should be repealed. The conditions that led to the introduction of these laws have ended and the laws themselves must be ended. The emergency law under which we are living must also be lifted.

The Neo-Wafd holds that the constitutional provision according to which Islam is the state religion and the principles of Shari'ah are the principal source of legislation — in addition to Islam's tolerance that guarantees the rights of all, including non-Muslims — is the best guarantee for national unity and social peace. "The Neo-Wafd believes the existing legislation should be purged of any contradictions to the principles of Islamic Shari'ah and the government should undertake a sincere effort to implement this." The Neo-Wafd's creed will always remain one of national unity between Muslims and Copts. "The party denounces any attempt to harm this unity, which was the first fruit of the 1919 national revolution."

"With regard to the Camp David Agreement, the Neo-Wafd believes that Israel has violated this agreement in letter and spirit by its attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the invasion of Lebanon, the occupation of Lebanon's territory, the killing of Arabs in Lebanon and the West Bank, and the expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories." Thus the Neo-Wafd takes the view that the agreement is useless and that peace and stability are the last thing on the minds of Israel's leaders. Israeli troops are still in Tabah and talks must start to restore Egypt's full sovereignty over Sinai.

The Neo-Wafd believes the Nile Basin countries should cooperate in the utilization of the river's waters. It also calls for the establishment of an Afro-Arab common market.

Socialist Liberal Party Program

NC260510 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Statement of the Socialist Liberal Party electoral program, read by party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad — live or recorded]

[Summary] The Socialist Liberal Party program stems from the long political experience that the party's founders have gained in the past 30 years. Its aims are to improve the people's living conditions and establish social justice in the distribution of the national income among the citizens. "The Egyptian citizen must fully enjoy all political freedoms: freedom of expression, thought, and religion, equality before the law, the right to publish newspapers, and the right to form parties. All these freedoms are fundamental to any political action and any economic reform

relating to the people's income and standard of living, as well as to any social reform in education, health, and housing. No plan which is applicable to these issues can succeed unless a completely democratic atmosphere is ensured."

The citizen must enjoy every political right and freedom because economic and democratic reform are intertwined. In a democratic atmosphere the citizen can express his views. Once the politicians know the people's aspirations and problems they can try to find solutions.

The Socialist Liberal Party's first principle is the application of the provisions of Islamic Shari'ah, not out of fanaticism, but because Shari'ah charts a path for mankind. According to the Egyptian Constitution and most party programs, the Islamic Shari'ah is the basic source of law. The Socialist Liberal Party supports the implementation of Shari'ah because its spiritual and practical aspects deal with all aspects of man's life. The party program aims to deal with the problems of the masses, production, agriculture, industry, education, transportation, health, housing, and other social services. Therefore, the party program covers all sectors of the people and their problems. It is primarily concerned with increasing the national income, raising the standard of living, and securing social justice and insurance for old age.

"The private sector has an important and basic role in the development process. The party encourages private sector investments in all fields, and rejects the principle of monopoly even in the public sector. The public sector has a role to play, and the private sector has a complementary one. The problem in Egypt is that the private sector is not playing its role. It is not investing to the required extent." The party believes a program should be drawn up for the repayment in full of Egypt's huge foreign debts. The party has a plan to pay off these debts that will enable Egyptian society to increase its investments and development projects. If the private sector is to be encouraged, it must have confidence in the political atmosphere.

There should be a balance in the People's Assembly; no party should be allowed to take up 90 percent of the seats, leaving only 10 seats for all the other parties. A balance between political parties and trends will lead to political stability and confidence. The party wants to abolish the law pertaining to the socialist prosecutor, because it wishes to see a normal judicial and prosecution system. The party calls for the repeal of all exceptional laws restricting freedoms, and the abolition of the emergency law. An economic program must be formulated to attract the huge savings of Egyptians abroad, so that they will invest in projects to increase agricultural and industrial production.

Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Delegation Departs

NC252047 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — Vladimir Tolstikov, vice chairman of the Soviet Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity [title as received], and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for home tonight. They had paid a 1-week visit to Egypt in response to an invitation by the Egyptian Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Committee.

During this visit, Tolstikov held discussions with Dr 'Ali Lutfi, speaker of the Consultative Council; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

In a predeparture statement, the leader of the Soviet delegation said that during his visit to Cairo he discussed issues pertaining to the struggle for peace and the danger of nuclear war, and ways to develop and promote the friendly relations between the Egyptian and Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committees. [passage omitted]

Soviet Steel Workers Delegation Leaves Cairo

NC252017 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1912 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — Eugene Usov, chairman of the USSR Iron and Steel Workers Trade Union Committee [name and title as received], and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo tonight for home following a 1-week visit.

The Soviet official said before departing that the object of his visit had been to expand the scope of the long-standing and close trade union relations between the two countries and to repay the visit a delegation from the Egyptian Engineering Industries Union made to the USSR. [passage omitted]

Bulgarian Finance Minister Arrives 26 March

NC260825 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA) — Belcho Belchev, Bulgarian minister of finance and chairman of the Egyptian-Bulgarian Cooperation Committee, arrived here early this morning with his accompanying delegation for a week-long visit to Egypt.

During his stay, the Bulgarian official will visit the Bulgarian pavilion at the Cairo International Fair. [passage omitted]

DPRK Vice Premier Arrives for 5-Day Visit

NC260823 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0638 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA) — Kim Yong-nam, DPRK vice premier and minister of foreign affairs, as well as a member of the Korean Workers Party Politburo, arrived in Cairo early this morning. He is leading a delegation on a 5-day visit to Egypt, during which he will meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a number of other senior officials.

Assistant Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Hadi Makhluf, who was on hand to receive the Korean official at the airport, said the purpose of the visit is to exchange views on the forthcoming meeting of nonaligned states to be held in the DPRK capital city of Pyongyang on 12 June.

Among the subjects to be discussed in Cairo is the issue of South-South economic cooperation.

Communique No 2,616 Details 25-26 Fighting

JN261729 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,616 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces will continue to keep the promise they made to the people and the leader. They will continue to achieve victory and to confront the despotic Khomeyniite clique until it responds to the call of truth. The following is a summary of activities for last night and today:

1. Our brave men in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah continued their capable actions, destroying the enemy and inflicting further losses in empty Khomeyniite heads and in their equipment. They also burned and destroyed a tank, destroyed a gun, killed eight enemy personnel, destroyed five infantry positions and killed their occupants, destroyed a bulldozer and a shovel [preceding word in English] and damaged another shovel, destroyed two vehicles and damaged three others, blew up three ammunition dumps, and destroyed a machine gun emplacement and an observation post.

2. Our heroic formations in the VII Army Corps sector dealt accurate blows with artillery, tanks, and mortars to the enemy units opposite them, to its engineering works, and to its gun emplacements, inflicting new losses. They also blew up 5 ammunition dumps and destroyed 2 large vehicles, 10 infantry positions, 3 machine gun emplacements, and 1 observation post, and started big fires on the enemy side.

3. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, one infantry position and one observation post were destroyed and all their crews were killed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 March 1987

'Aziz Hails Tunisian Decision To Break Iran Ties

JN270943 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Mar (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has hailed the sound, daring decision that fraternal Tunisia took against the Iranian regime's embassy after Tunisia determined that that embassy carried out acts of sabotage and blatantly interfered in [Tunisian] internal affairs.

In a statement to INA today, Tariq 'Aziz said Tunisia's decision is an example that deserves to be followed in reaction to the offensive acts of sabotage carried out by the aggressive, expansionist Iranian regime in many Arab and foreign countries, using Iranian diplomatic missions and their privileges.

The foreign minister added: Had daring stands such as the Tunisian stand been taken previously, the [Iranian] regime would not have gone far in its offensive practices and blatant interference, which have gone beyond all limits in many countries, including most of the Arab countries.

Tariq 'Aziz asserted that taking such stands will curb the Iranian regime's persistence in continuing its war of aggression against Iraq.

He said: When this regime, and those enemies of the Arab nation covertly and overtly supporting it, feel that Arabs will not hesitate to take firm stands against that regime once it goes beyond its limits and attacks them, they will not go far in their expansionist delusions against Iraq and the Arab nation and will learn their limits and pay attention to internal affairs. Hence, Zionism and other enemies of the Arab nation will be deprived of the opportunity to use the Iranian regime as a tool for sabotage and dissemination of sedition in the Arab homeland, he added.

Parliamentarians Meet USSR Supreme Soviet Group
JN261115 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi has asserted that Jordan, under His Majesty King Husayn's leadership, bases its policy toward the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli struggle on a number of firm principles that call for Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, enabling the Palestinian people to realize their basic legitimate rights, and establishing just and comprehensive peace through an international conference to be held under UN auspices and with the presence of the five UN Security Council permanent member states and all parties to the dispute.

During a reception for the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation at Parliament House today, Al-Lawzi said Jordan has exerted extensive international efforts to hold this conference and warned against the possibility of losing the available opportunities, the continuation of no-war and no-peace conditions, and the aimless movement in circles, thus transforming the region into a hotbed of international struggle threatening world peace. [passage omitted]

Vladimir Orlov, head of the Soviet delegation, spoke at the meeting affirming that the Middle East problem and the Iran-Iraq war constitute the most serious hotbeds of international tension and are increasing the possibility of an international conflagration. He said the Middle East problem engages a large part of Soviet efforts in the international arena, indicating that the USSR is in agreement with Jordan that the international peace conference is the best way to realize a just and comprehensive peace. He said the causes of tension and struggle in the region are Israel's expansionist policy and its insistence on ignoring all available peace initiatives.

On another level, Isma'il Hijazi, deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, said that Jordan, under His Majesty King Husayn's leadership, believes in the need to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East through the convocation of an international peace conference under UN auspices and with the participation of the five UN Security Council permanent member states and all parties to the dispute. In a meeting with the Soviet delegation today, Hijazi said Israel is practicing tyranny and oppression against the citizens in the occupied territory and is continuing its expansionist policy aimed at confiscating the land, expelling its legitimate owners, establishing Zionist settlements on it, and obliterating the Arab identity. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Conference, Other Issues
JN241010 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Mar 87 pp 1, 19

[By Hamdan al-Haj]

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has rejected the idea of holding a bogus international conference to resolve the Middle East crisis and said Jordan's idea of the international conference is that the UN secretary general should address invitations to all parties concerned in solving the Middle East crisis, including the PLO, in addition to the five permanent UN Security Council member states, regardless of positions and seats they occupy, and that this international umbrella should continue until decisive decisions are reached.

Speaking yesterday to local, Arab, and international journalists at the "Monday Press Circle" organized by Dr Musa al-Kilani, director general of the Press and Publications Department, the foreign minister said Jordan does not accept that the conference be held for a day and then the international umbrella come to an end or that the conference be suspended for perhaps a long time. This is one of the problems facing us when we talk with the U.S. Administration.

Al-Masri said Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and the Israeli foreign minister have agreed that 1987 should be the year of the international peace conference. He added that Jordan is exerting intensive and sincere efforts to hold the conference and that the Soviets and the UN secretary general as well as the European countries which support the idea of holding a conference support these efforts. However, he added, differences with the U.S. Administration continue to exist and are being dealt with in one way or another.

Al-Masri added that Jordan and the EC states continue their practical efforts to push the European decision ahead so things will not stop at mere declarations.

He then spoke about Belgian Ambassador Kobia's visit to the region last week where he met with officials in Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Israel in an attempt to become acquainted with the viewpoints of the various parties concerned and to narrow the gap between stands.

These efforts coincided with continuous, intensive Jordanian contacts to hold an international peace conference. Al-Masri himself visited New York, met with the UN secretary general, and briefed him on the latest Jordanian stand on holding the conference. He requested that the secretary general begin his efforts to hold the conference by visiting Washington, the most difficult stage, to first convince the United States of the principle of holding the conference.

Javier Perez de Cuellar contacted the representatives of the five permanent UN Security Council member states. He will also contact the U.S. Administration and he will decide, in light of the results reached with the U.S. officials, whether to visit the region, although he is basically reluctant to do so.

Asked about the European countries' attitude toward holding the international conference and the role Jordan expects them to play, Al-Masri said the EC chairman is seriously thinking of visiting the Middle East to closely acquaint himself with the viewpoints of all parties concerned, especially after analyzing the stands of these parties as conveyed to him by the Belgian ambassador.

The minister added that the Europeans are very eager to activate the peace process in the region and will not stop at issuing a declaration and adopting resolutions, but will continue their

search for any possibility to promote these efforts. Al-Masri indicated that following the scandal of U.S. arms sale to Iran, known as Irangate, these countries began to think seriously of playing an important role because they believe the region, because of its importance, should not be left to others. Therefore, they are playing this positive role.

Regarding Jordanian-U.S. contacts and the obstacles Wahington is placing in the face of convening an international peace conference, Al-Masri said these contacts are continuing and will not be stopped because the United States is a superpower and can influence the Israeli stand.

He added: We are talking to the U.S. Administration about their acceptance in principle of the idea of holding a conference. Jordan is using all means to convince the United States of the need to hold this conference, but it is insisting on more than one stand toward the PLO and the right to self-determination and to the establishment of a Palestinian state. He indicated that the Americans are not against holding the conference but want to be acquainted with matters in greater detail and clarity. Differences continue to exist as U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz insists that the aim of what he termed the game was direct negotiations, while Jordan views it as peace and its establishment in this sensistive part of the world.

Regarding the Iran-Iraq war, Al-Masri said Jordan is not worried about what is taking place at the front because it is confident of Iraq's ability to destroy any Iranian offensive. He added that what worries Jordan is the continuation of this painful war between the neighborly countries and that efforts are being exerted to stop it. He indicated that the UN Security Council members states are making contacts to hold a session to discuss the war, but some Council members are reluctant to respond because they do not want this session to be similar to previous ones which could not produce a decisive resolution to end the war.

Al-Masri stressed that the U.S. Administration has invited His Majesty King Husayn to visit Washington, but no date for the visit has been set.

He denied knowledge of new contacts between Iraq and Syria or of a visit by Richard Murphy to the region in the near future. He explained that the French foreign minister has postponed and not canceled his visit to Jordan because the time he was supposed to spend in Amman were very critical for the French hostages in Lebanon and he would not be able to hold contacts on this affair during his presence in Jordan. He added that he will make the visit soon.

Al-Masri described Syrian-Jordanian relations as fraternal and intimate. He said senior officials in both countries maintain continuous contact on several levels and there is a kind of coordination between the two countries.

Regarding His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Cairo last Sunday, Al-Masri pointed out that the aim of the visit was the exchange of viewpoints between His Majesty King Husayn and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He said the two sides' viewpoints were close and they agreed on several of the issues discussed.

On Jordan's stand toward the camps war and the contacts held with Syria in this regard, Al-Masri stressed that His Majesty King Husayn has devoted a great part of his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, during his recent visit to Damascus, to the human tragedy in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and to the need for protecting them because they are Arabs. Jordan has also played an effective role within the framework of the Arab seven-member committee entrusted with settling the camps crisis.

With regard to the Syrian forces' entry into West Beirut, Al-Masri said it is a good step to restore stability and security to Lebanon, and West Beirut, especially because the security situation has reached a point that necessitated a brave step and decision to stop this deterioration. He added that this step took place in response to Lebanese leaders' request, particularly in West Beirut. He said the whole world did not criticize this decision and the Syrian forces' situation is not easy because of daily tragedies. Therefore, he said, a practical step was necessary in this regard.

Replying to a question on the future Israeli Government and the issue of holding an international conference, Al-Masri expressed the belief that both Shamir and Peres set two conditions for the convocation of the conference. These are the restoration of Israeli-Soviet relations and the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. He added that should these conditions be met, Shamir would change his opinion and refuse to participate in the international conference. Consequently, he said, the Israeli Government would be dissolved and the region will enter the whirlpool of new elections. He said the Israelis realize the significance of convening such a conference, which would necessitate the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Al-Masri explained: For these reasons Jordan insists on holding the conference on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Because the Jordanian leadership adopts a very clear stand toward this issue, it works sincerely and seriously for holding the conference to acheive something for the Arab people, who are suffering from the Israeli occupation.

On the PLO stand toward the West Bank development plan, Al-Masri said: The PLO is not against the concept of developing the West Bank or drawing up economic and development plans to improve the conditions of the citizens in the occupied Arab territories. However, it believes there are political motives behind this plan. This is incorrect because Jordan's major objective is to bolster the steadfastness of citizens in the occupied territories.

Regarding reports on the possibility of holding an Arab summit, Al-Masri pointed out that these reports have come after the United States began to restore its credibility with the Arab states and after the European foreign ministers' conference, and at a time when all sides believe a unified and strategic Arab stand is necessary to deal with the world. However, Al-Masri did not expect the summit in the near future.

Al-Masri pointed out that U.S. credibility began to deteriorate after the signing of an agreement on economic free zones with Israel, the U.S. arms shipment to Iran, and other issues. He

added that the presence of the U.S. fleet and warships in the Arabian Sea is not aimed at protecting the Middle East states but to protect the waterways.

Regarding Jordan's stand on refusing to request weapons from the United States, at least for the present time, Al-Masri said Jordan has its own reasons for this and that the U.S. Administration should seriously intend to supply Jordan with weapons. He said alternative arms sources were found and that British, Soviet, and other weapons have been purchased.

Al-Masri said daily newspapers will be exchanged between Syria and Jordan as of next month at a rate of 300 copies daily of each, and that Jordan was the first to approve this step.

The meeting, held at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, was attended by Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib, Information Ministry Under Secretary Michel Hamarinah, and Jordanian News Agency Director General 'Ali al-Safadi.

AL-DUSTUR Discusses Upcoming PNC Session

JN251351 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Mar 87 p 24

[News analysis: "On the 18th Session of the PNC"]

[Text] It appears conditions have become suitable for the convocation of the 18th PNC session in April because Algeria has agreed to host it and because most of the Palestinian resistance factions have expressed a readiness to attend it.

This conference will take place amid very important developments in the Arab and international arenas linked to the Palestine question. The issue of the international conference, for which Jordan has worked assiduously during the past years, has begun to gain momentum, particularly after it has acquired the individual and collective support of the European countries and the Soviet Union. This has encouraged the UN secretary general to announce a UN-sponsored initiative to promote the idea. Undoubtedly, these moves have affected the United States and caused it to reassess its position. Though there are still major obstacles impeding the idea of holding this conference, foremost of which is the Israeli position, which is designed to empty the conference of its substance and to confine its role to a bogus "umbrella," Jordan's success in forming a strong international bloc supporting the Arab position is something that has to be preserved whether the conference is held soon or delayed as a result of U.S. maneuvering and Israeli procrastination. In light of this Arab diplomatic move, it is incumbent upon the Palestinian leadership to adopt a positive, courageous and far-sighted position and to make an enlightened comparison of the proposed options.

The 17th PNC session, held in Amman, constituted a positive turning point in Palestinian action because it demonstrated a great fact in the march of Palestinian struggle; namely, the inevitable cooperation between Jordan and the PLO due to well-known geographic and realistic considerations. This session also established for the first time that cooperation is the destiny of the two sides — a destiny that cannot be ignored because it leads to other destinies, as long as it is governed by good intentions and responsible appreciation of the circumstances of the two sides and the interest of the cause itself. The importance of this cooperation agreement was clear in the occupied territories in particular when it constituted a glimmer of hope. The citizens viewed it as a step in the right direction. Therefore, the responsible Palestinian leadership shoulders the historic responsibility of maintaining this hope and all that it represents in the eyes of the Palestinian people, living under the yoke of occupation, who will not tolerate further defeats and retreats. This position was demonstrated by the responsible leadership in the occupied territories.

Obviously, any serious attempt to unite the Palestinian factions in the Algiers meeting is a noble objective that must be supported by all elements to ensure its success. One of the factors of success is that the endeavors for unity must not be a pretext to sacrifice these gains, or to ignore positive international developments, and fail to exploit them because of opinions that might come as a result of emotions rather than the objective conditions that control the difficult situation.

New Video From U.S. Hostage Says Steen 'Dying'

NC262118 Paris AFP in English 2112 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Beirut, March 26 (AFP) — American hostage Alann Steen, 46, is "dying" from hemiparesis, a partial paralysis of one side of the body, and other afflictions, according to a video message read by fellow hostage Jesse Turner and sent Thursday by their kidnappers to a Beirut newspaper.

Mr Turner said that apart from Mr Steen the hostages were "just fine" but the situation was "very, very tough."

The two men and two other professors from Beirut University College were seized in West Beirut on January 24. The kidnapping was claimed by the Islamic Jihad for Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) who have demanded that Israel release 100 Arab detainees in exchange for Mr Steen's freedom. Israel has rejected the trade.

Mr Turner said that as an act of good faith "America and Israel must ask the IJLP to send its list of names" of those it wants released.

The IJLP said in an earlier communique that Mr Steen was "very ill" and could die in the next 10 days.

"We're living today a new bitter time. You all know that our fellow Alann is dying," said Mr Turner in the new video.

Mr Turner quoted a doctor's report as saying that Mr Steen had symptoms of headaches, hemiparicia, anxiety and difficulty in breathing.

The report added: "These symptoms are due to a decrease in the oxygen to his brain" and Mr Steen had said that as a child he was hit on his head while playing baseball and knocked unconscious.

"The doctor says that the patient hits his head against the wall whenever he had headaches even after taking the tranquilizers," said Mr Turner, who himself looked well in a yellow T-shirt and jeans.

In Kuwait, Abu Iyad, deputy leader of the main Palestinian group Fatah, said that the pro-Iranian Hizballah (Party of God) had demanded the release of Arab prisoners in France, West Germany and Kuwait for foreign hostages it holds.

Abu Iyad named the prisoners as Georges Ibrahim 'Abdallah, who was recently jailed for life in France, and Anis Naqqash, also jailed in France, Muhammad 'Ali Hammadi and his brother Abbas in West Germany and prisoners jailed in Kuwait for several bomb attacks.

Muhammad Hammadi is wanted by the United States in connection with the June 1985 hijacking of a TWA jet to Beirut in which a U.S. Navy diver was killed.

The Palestinian leader said the demand had been passed on to Syria by Iran. [passage omitted]

Syria Reportedly Assured of Normandin's Safety

NC270654 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Citing a well-informed source in Beirut, reports from AFP state that Syria has obtained assurances about the safety of Jean-Louis Normandin, the French hostage who had been threatened with execution by his kidnappers. Syria has given Hizballah a certain warning in reference to this. The issue was brought up at a meeting between a Hizballah delegation and Syrian officials in Damascus the day before yesterday.

Al-Jumayyil Said To Telephone Karami on Issues

NC261814 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] It has been reported that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil telephoned Prime Minister Rashid Karami today. According to these reports, the two officials discussed current pending issues. Presidential sources, however, declined to comment.

Two Explosions in W. Beirut; No Casualties

NC261355 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1335 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Security sources have reported that an explosive device went off 15 minutes ago near Beirut prison in the Al-Mullah area [of West Beirut]. A second explosion was reported 5 minutes later. It was caused by an explosive device that went off in a garbage dump near the Al-Sana'i' Park [in West Beirut].

2d Explosion Near Prison

NC261400 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1343 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] We have just received a report that a second explosive device has gone off near the Beirut prison walls in the Al-Mullah area [of West Beirut] under a parked car. We will give you the details of the damage resulting from this explosion as soon as it is received. The other sounds of explosions heard in the capital are caused by clashes in the Burj al-Barajinah camp area.

Khaddam Meets Bulgarian Afro-Asian Committee Head
JN261125 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1015 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Slavcho Trunski, chairman of the Solidarity With the Peoples of Asia and Africa Committee in the Bulgarian People's Republic, in Damascus at 1100 today. The meeting was also attended by Ahmad al-As'ad, deputy chairman of the solidarity committee in Syria, and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with relations between Syria and Bulgaria, the activity of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement, and developments in the Arab world.

Egyptian Uprisings Express Popular 'Conscience'
JN250830 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 24 Mar 87

["Abu Salim Talk" from the "Palestine Broadcast"]

[Text] Successive uprisings in Arab Egypt by the masses expressing the conscience of the Egyptian people will continue no matter how hard the Cairo regime tries to play them down. This is because these outbursts are an expression of the sentiments of the masses, which reject the current state of affairs and believe in the necessity of giving expression to their pan-Arab identity. These masses insist on carrying on the struggle to free Egypt from the Camp David fetters that have turned the country into a vassal for the Americans and Zionists and lost it its pan-Arab and world stature, changing it from a bastion of Arab and African struggle for liberation into a tool against Arab and African struggle for liberation. The Egyptian Arab people, who are aware of their resources, national interests, their pan-Arab role in the struggle between the Arab nation, its aspirations, goals, and its national program on the one hand and anti-Arab forces, their ambitions, goals, and plans on the other, and who have paid dearly to rid Egypt of the evils of British imperialism and custodianship to confirm their sovereignty over their land and destiny, who have also paid dearly in the discharge of their pan-Arab responsibilities as a central, pivotal force, will never acquiesce to be robbed of their patriotic will, having made all these sacrifices. It simply does not stand to reason that the Egyptian people, who have never spared themselves for the sake of the Arab cause, will acquiesce to place their fate in the hands of the Zionists and their allies nor give in to subordination and subservience to these forces. The enemies of the Egyptian people want them to stand by and look on as the Zionists wander freely on Egyptian soil, and as the Egyptian regime grovels at the feet of the Zionists. Even in the dispute over Tabah the Egyptian regime has sought to instill in the masses capitulation to the will of the Zionists, which it thinks are invincible. The Egyptian regime has sought to instill in the masses that they are powerless to exercise sovereignty over their land and that, in their best interests, they must submit to the tutelage of the Americans and Zionists.

In addressing these uprisings, the Egyptian regime attempts to disregard inescapable facts that cannot be dismissed so lightly. They are entrenched facts which oppression and repression cannot possibly change. Foremost among these is the faith of the Arab masses in Egypt in their common destiny with fellow Arabs and their determination to discharge their pan-Arab responsibilities and to struggle in the cause of Arab liberation. Another fact is the rejection by the Egyptian masses of the present state of affairs in the country, their recognition of their friends and foes, and their full appreciation of their role in the struggle against their veritable enemies — the Americans, Zionists and their allies — and their rejection of all attempts by the Cairo regime to distort and falsify truths. One of the important facts the regime attempts to brush aside is the Egyptian masses' belief in the common struggle in Lebanon, the Golan, and Palestine against hostile forces. The Arab masses are determined to assume their responsibilities to pursue their relentless struggle led by Syria — the vanguard of Arab liberation forces.

The uprisings of the Arab masses in Egypt and the untiring struggle by the progressive nationalist forces there to free the country of the Camp David shackles and to bring it back to its normal and leading place in the pan-Arab struggle are an expression of their faith in the common Arab destiny as well as an expression of their conviction of the justice of the struggle of their fellow masses in Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine. It is also an expression of the masses conviction that the Syrian interpretation of the struggle and how best to (?confront) it is truly pan-Arab, behind which all Arab masses rally.

Shamir Says Soviet Jewry, USSR Policy 'Separate'

TA261837 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says Israel's relations with the Soviet Union must be separated from the struggle of Soviet Jewry. Shamir says the two issues are completely different, and that to connect them makes Soviet Jews hostages to the foreign policy of both Jerusalem and Moscow. The prime minister made the statement while meeting with a group of American Jews lobbying on behalf of Soviet Jewry. Also there was reporter Dick Winter:

[Begin recording] [Winter] The prime minister's statement was a major change in policy for the government, which has always maintained that the plight of Soviet Jewry and any diplomatic relations between Israel and Moscow must be linked. But today Yitzhaq Shamir said something different.

[Shamir] It is in our interest to have normal relations with them. It is in our interest to change their attitude, their negative attitude towards Israel, towards our policy in the Middle East, toward our place in the Middle East, our position in the Middle East. It's very important. But I don't think we have to put all of that together with the problem of the Jewish emigration from Soviet Russia. We have not to mix it up, because I don't think the Soviet Jewish people have to be hostages, because of our policy here in the Middle East. It's two separate problems.

[Winter] The reaction to Shamir's statement has been swift. Lewis Stern, of the Soviet Jewry Information Center, says it is right to ask that Russia's Jews not be held hostage to the bad state of Israel-Soviet relations, but he emphasizes that they should never become victims of the improvement of those relations. Stern adds that Soviet Jewry activists, who have been fighting for years for linkage between the two issues, had been fearing that just such a statement would soon be made by an Israeli politician. Today it was made by the prime minister. [end recording]

London Sources Claim Jordan Sends Arms to RSA

TA200811 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Mar 87 pp 1, 18

[Report by Middle East editor Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Jordan has become one of the major channels for arms shipments to South Africa, reliable sources in London said this week. European arms dealers have been funnelling arms to South Africa through Jordan since the beginning of the 1970s, the sources said.

Jordanian officials and private dealers have been involved in more than $3 billion worth of arms transactions to South Africa in the last 15 years, the sources estimated. They added that Jordanian military attaches in Europe and retired officers have been mediating between European arms manufacturers and the South African Government, pretending that the arms are being sent either to Amman for internal requirements or to the Iraqi Army for its war against Iran.

The Jordanians involved in these transactions have been charging commissions of up to 20 per cent, the sources estimated. It is unclear, they noted, whether the Jordanian mediators have been specifically authorized by their government, or whether the Jordanian authorities have merely been turning a blind eye to the deals.

The sources also said that for the last 10 years Saudi Arabia has been selling its oil secretly and indirectly to South Africa. The oil shipments, the sources continued, are being made to a neighbouring country and from there it is being shipped to South Africa.

According to the sources, the Jordanians have been involved in weapons deals that included American tanks which had been modernized in Europe (mainly in the UK), artillery, and light weapons. In some cases the arms have been sent to Amman, the sources continued, and they were shipped on to South Africa. In other cases, the arms have been shipped directly to South Africa following the transaction in Europe. The sources noted that the Jordanian dealers have also been using Arab Gulf states as intermediate destinations for the shipments.

In the mid '70s one of Jordan's military attaches in London was forced to leave Britain within 24 hours after the British authorities obtained information about his involvement in a $400m. tank deal with South Africa. The retired senior officer is serving now as adviser to the Jordanian king.

For the past 30 years, Jordan has had the deserved reputation for being one of the Middle East's biggest arms sales centres. The Jordanian Army is highly regarded in the Gulf states, and senior Jordanian officers are asked by Arab Gulf governments for their advice on new arms purchases.

In many cases these officers are asked to mediate between the arms manufacturers and the Gulf governments for commissions of up to 20-25 per cent. The Gulf countries send hundreds of their soldiers every year for training at the Jordanian Officers Academy.

Jordan has no diplomatic relations with South Africa and is officially boycotting all commerce with Pretoria. On all official import and export forms issued by the Jordanian Government, it is stated that it is forbidden to export to or import from Israel and South Africa.

Shamir Greets Mubarak; Meets, Talks With Carter

TA262032 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today sent a message of congratulations to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty. In his cable, the prime minister wrote that the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt should serve as an example to the rest of the Arab countries, Israel's neighbors. Mr Shamir also called on Mubarak to strengthen relations between the two countries.

This evening the prime minister conferred in his office with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's spokesman, told our correspondent Mikha'el Doron that Carter feels Egypt is interested in inviting the prime minister to discuss the future of the peace process. Mr Shamir said he is prepared to leave for Egypt whenever he is invited.

Beilin Meets French Minister on Peace Conference

TA252019 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Yosi Beilin, the Foreign Ministry's political director general, conferred this evening with the French external relations minister. The French minister voiced his country's support for an international peace conference on the Middle East. Mr Beilin expressed his belief that such a conference will indeed be convened this year.

Welcomes EC Statement

LD241604 Hamburg DPA German 1219 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Bonn (DPA) — Israel considers the EC's 23 February statement on the Middle East advocating an international Middle East conference to be an "important step forward," as it no longer calls expressly for PLO participation. Yosef Beilin, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, told newsmen in Bonn today that on this basis his government would welcome further efforts by the EC countries for a Middle East conference.

According to Beilin, Israel is interested in seeing the plans made more definite this year. However, it would have to be ensured that the conference forms only a framework for the actual negotiations between Israel and Jordan or a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The conference should not have the right to veto bilateral agreements.

Any insistence on the PLO as a negotiating partner would lead all preparations to an impasse, Beilin said. The Palestinians should realize that a solution is more important than the question of their organization. "There are many possibilities for Palestinian participation," Beilin noted.

Peres Renews Palestinian Meetings 26 March

TA261605 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1545 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Shim'on Peres met today with several Palestinians in his Jerusalem office. Our correspondent Moshe Hakohen reports from there now:

[Hakohen] The foreign minister's office emphasized today that the three Palestinian figures with whom Mr Peres met are not PLO members, although they are identified in the territories as PLO supporters. Mr Peres told them that Israel is interested in direct negotiations, and with an international introduction to such negotiations being held with the participation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Palestinians who are not PLO representatives can be part of the delegation. Israel, he added, does not censor the feelings and views of Palestinians. In his opinion, Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians should begin negotiations without prior conditions. Following the meeting, the three Palestinian notables spoke in a positive but cautious tone. The following are remarks by *Al-Fajr* Editor Hanna Sinyurah:

[Begin Sinyurah recording in English] We had a fruitful meeting. We discussed matters pertaining to the international conference. We also mentioned the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people as we view it. We talked of Palestinian representation. [end recording]

Hanna Sinyurah did not rule out additional meetings with Mr Peres in the future, although he did not mention a date. He added that he hopes the PLO will understand today's meeting with Mr Peres.

Moshe Levi Speaks on Sela', Ties With U.S.

TA201646 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Mar 87 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Text] In an interview with *Davar*, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi said that "nothing is done in the Army without the knowledge and approval of the politicians."

Referring to remarks attributed to him on Colonel Avi'em Sela' 's promotion in the face of the Americans' position, the chief of staff stressed: "I have not said my opinion must be popular. I voiced it before it was decided to assign committees to look into the Pollard affair and I said it in what was supposed to be a closed forum, after much hesitation. I had my doubts as to whether the forum would remain closed." The chief of staff termed the leaks of remarks he made in internal meetings as "biased and tendentious quotes."

In an interview with *Davar* summing up his term in office, the chief of staff stressed the importance of normal relations with the United States for the strengthening of Israel, and pointed out that none of the joint plans of the two armies had been affected. "To the best of my knowledge, all our agreements are alive and well," Lt Gen Levi stated.

It was learned during the interview with Levi that the meeting between the defense minister and the top echelon of the Air Force on the promotion and appointment of Col Sela' was arranged directly between the commander of the Air Force and the defense minister, and that the chief of staff was informed and invited to the meeting and to another one held the next day.

Press on Handing Pollard Case Testimonies to U.S.

TA251107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Mar 87

[From the review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *Yedi'ot Aharonot* writes about the Pollard affair, saying that the government is running from one complication to another. The fact-finding committee has been busier raising serious ques-

tions than solving problems. If the government does not hand the information given to the committee by the three Science Liaison Bureau workers over to the United States, it will be breaking its word. On the other hand, if it fails to uphold its promise to the three civil servants to keep their testimony secret, it will be breaching the confidence placed in it.

Hadashot warns that Washington will lose its patience and forbearance on seeing the great whitewashing job being done here. The prime minister's suggestion to reveal only what we want to the Americans — thus removing the obstacle to the testimony of the three Science Liaison Bureau workers — is impractical. The Americans expect us to conduct a true and credible investigation that is up to their own standards.

IDF Commander on 'Possible' Fighting With Syrians

TA200527 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] The head of the IDF Northern Command, General Yosi Peled, says that in the long run it is possible there will be a new round of fighting with Syria. Peled said his assessment is based on three factors: a growth of the Syrian Army, Syria's intention to conquer the Golan, and the way the decisionmaking process works in Damascus. Speaking at Tel Hay, Peled also said the Palestinians are continuing their return into Lebanon. Peled added that the apparent calm in southern Lebanon was just relative, and that he anticipates pressure on Israel's northern settlements to intensify in the future.

Commander Assesses Terrorist Naval Activity

TA261223 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 25 Mar 87 p 11

[Interview with Navy Commander Rear Admiral Avraham Ben-Shoshan by Doron Rosenblum; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Rosenblum] You once said that as terrorism on land subsided, the terrorists would focus instead on terrorism from the sea. Has there been a slackening in their efforts to penetrate via the sea, since that terrorist path has also virtually been sealed?

[Ben-Shoshan] As the seas are the scene of very intensive activity, and they teem with civilian vessels that can also be used to harbor hostile terrorist activity, the terrorists will continue to search for any possible way to use the waters as a convenient mode for penetration. That is why we must not only be alert, but actually stand guard. [passage omitted]

[Rosenblum] The terrorists have been trying to organize a naval branch. What is our assessment of their current capability?

[Ben-Shoshan] They train in most of the Arab countries, where they are given other forms of assistance as well. But they also train in East European countries, so I do not think they will suffer from a shortage of equipment or places to train. Some states, such as Algeria or even Syria, are ideal for training. Many Arab countries are prepared to do at least this — namely, train them and provide them with resources.

[Rosenblum] What about their attempts to procure formidable vessels, or anything better than fishing boats?

[Ben-Shoshan] They try to buy everywhere, particularly from the West, as this provides them with an innocent camouflage. And yet they try to diversify their sources. I believe their procurement efforts will continue.

[Rosenblum] The Lebanese Government has been known to state, or actually even complain to the UN Security Council, that we are blockading its coast. Is this an accurate description of what is actually taking place?

[Ben-Shoshan] No. This is not true — neither in fact, theory, or ideology. Our activity does not prevent innocent vessels from entering or leaving Lebanon. We have imposed no blockade. This term was invented by someone who sought publicity. We do, however, patrol and show our flag in those areas we deem vital for Israel. In those places we make sure that whoever is not innocent is caught and duly tried. [passage omitted]

Deportation Order Issued Against Fatah Activist

TA250704 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Major General Ehud Barak, who heads the Central Command, has issued a deportation order against Halil Ashur, a resident of the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus. Ashur is a prominent Fatah activist and military sources told our correspondent Moti Amir that he had been instigating demonstrations and riots inside and outside Al-Najah University. Ashur had in the past been sentenced to 12 years in prison for throwing a grenade in Nabulus. After his release 4 years ago he began studying at Al-Najah University. He was recently placed under administrative detention twice due to his participation in riots and provocations. Halil Ashur is entitled to appeal his deportation before an appeals committee and the High Court of Justice.

Security Prisoners Reported on Hunger Strike

TA251117 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 Mar 87 p 5

[Report by Oren Kohen]

[Text] The security prisoners in Israel's jails have been on a hunger strike for 2 days, prisoners' families told *Hadashot* yesterday. According to the families, the Army prevented them from reaching the Red Cross offices in Gaza to demonstrate support for their sons.

The families said the Border Police had blocked the road and redirected traffic.

The strike broke out, the families said, after the demands the prisoners submitted for improvement in their conditions went unanswered.

Two months ago a hunger strike broke out in the Nafha Prison near Mizpe Ramon. The prisoners claimed the windows in the

cells were blocked up and they could not see daylight, the time allotted to them for walking in the courtyard was insufficent, the food was terrible, and they were not permitted to bring books and papers into the jail. The prisoners stopped the strike after submitting their demands to the security forces. They claim their demands have not been met to this day.

The prisoners' families claim that some 200 prisoners have been held for over 4 months without due cause.

They say their interrogation was completed a long time ago, yet they have not been brought before a judge.

A security forces spokesman denied the report, saying there is no hunger strike.

E. Jerusalem Electric Franchise Not Expanded

TA251430 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The Cabinet will inform the East Jerusalem Electric Company that it will not extend its franchise for the generation of electricity when it expires at the end of the year. This was decided by the prime minister, the vice prime minister, and the defense minister. Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal reported that the company is still not ready to forgo its franchise over the new Jerusalem neighborhoods and the Jewish settlements in the territories.

Our correspondent Elihu Ben-on reports that Prime Minister Shamir and Ministers Peres and Rabin authorized the energy and infrastructure minister to inform the East Jerusalem Electric Company that the decision has been made not to extend its franchise.

Narcotics Dealers Build Up $1 Billion Business

TA260858 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Mar 87 p 4

[Report by Bernard Josepha]

[Excerpt] Narcotics dealers have built up a $1 billion business in Israel, Police Minister Hayim Bar-lev revealed last night as he addressed an annual meeting of more than 2,000 police officers in Jerusalem's Binyeney Ha'ooma.

Police intelligence sources told him that the illegal drug racket now has a turnover just in excess of this figure, said the minister. And he warned: "This is the biggest danger we face. It threatens the body, the soul and society."

The racket also leads to a growth in other crimes, as desperate addicts stage break-ins and robberies to raise money to buy supplies, added Bar-lev.

The minister's words were the clearest indication yet of the extent of the narcotics wave that police are trying desperately to stem.

Bar-lev told the officers that battling the drugs menace was top of the force's list of priorities, together with ensuring security in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

MA'ARIV: Authors Question Nuclear Program

TA221310 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Mar 87 p 10

[Commentary by 'Ami Dor-on and Eli Teicher: "Prey to the Nuclear King;" the writers are the authors of the book "Nobody Will Survive Us — The Story of the Israeli Atomic Bomb," which was banned for publication by the military censor]

[Text] About a million people throughout the world are currently engaged in espionage and surveillance activities, in one way or another. It is estimated in "professional circles" that some $60 billion is spent every year in this area. In the international intelligence community — both in the East and the West — Israel's nuclear capability is considered 1 of the 100 most important intelligence targets in the world. A country that may be a nuclear superpower is a first-rate intelligence issue. This being the case, it may be said with a considerable measure of certainty that "moles" have been and are still planted in areas that intelligence organizations suspect of having potential nuclear capability. Just as Israel had Pollard in the United States, it is reasonable and plausible to believe the United States had a "Pollard" here.

Espionage does not only involve flesh-and-blood human beings in the field. A complex system of espionage satellites, sophisticated monitoring installations, spooks and snoops, scientific conventions, and academic exchanges exists around the world. Nothing is kept secret from this "system." Nowadays, a person in the Middle East cannot even burp without somebody, somewhere, monitoring him.

Which brings us to the logical conclusion that if anyone in the Israeli intelligence community believes Mordekhay Vanunu's disclosures to the world were news or that the big and rich intelligence services have no idea what is going on in the nuclear sphere in Israel, he is a real nitwit who should be fired from his job because he will be the brain behind the next fiasco.

According to foreign publications, Israel has invested vast sums in the establishment and development of the nuclear research center in Dimona. If nuclear weapons are indeed produced in Dimona, as foreign sources have been insisting for some years, this means Israel needs "vehicles" to enable these weapons to reach their intended targets. There is a bottomless pit for you.

Such research and production centers in the world tend to expand ad infinitum. These are modern "sharks" whose thirst cannot be quenched. He who produces an atomic bomb wants to attain a hydrogen bomb, then a neutron bomb. Meanwhile, billions keep slipping between the fingers. So, if this is the case all over the world, why should we think it is different in Israel?

Has the astronomical investment in Dimona done any good? Has Israel slashed even one helicopter, tank, or armored-personnel carrier from its Army? On the contrary: Israel is increasing its

investments in conventional weapons, including the development of a highly-praised jet fighter, and it is confidently on its way to becoming a huge arsenal from Metulla to Elat and, as a result, going into total bankruptcy and impoverishment.

Israel's economic situation is on the brink of an abyss. Teachers are dismissed, schools are closed, teaching hours are reduced, and a new generation of morons is being raised. Next decade's teachers will reflect the current drop in education levels and illiteracy will blossom. Israel's health services are crumbling and very soon medical treatment will be a luxury only affordable by the rich and those in high places.

Agriculture is collapsing, kibbutzim are mired in debt, moshavim are going into receivership, senior citizens and pensioners suffer deprivation while the threat to cut their pensions hovers over their heads, and the circle of poverty keeps spiraling. Crime is on the rise both because the police force has been cut and because poverty is a hotbed for crime. Israelis are getting fed up with their country and immigration has been decreasing while emigration has been increasing.

Only one king apparently gets all he needs, as if he were living on another planet, and that is the king of defense. So, slowly but surely, we are turning from a country that may have the bomb into "maybe a bomb" that has a country.

Any Israeli who thinks "we can believe in somebody" on the decision for a nuclear research center is deluding himself. If there is any lesson to be learned from the Yom Kippur War, it is that we should doubt the wisdom of leaders before whose nonexistent genius we knelt prior to that terrible conflict and whom we later saw in their weakness. Each of us should today tell himself: I am as clever as the "holy trinity" of Shamir-Peres-Rabin that is currently running the country from its inner sanctums. If we sit idly by and let things deteriorate, this time all of us will be guilty.

Those who wanted to produce a nuclear option in Israel believed this would obviate the need for a large army. Under cover of the nuclear deterrence umbrella, so they believed, Israel would be able to get by with a small, professional, and inexpensive army which would carry out daily security missions. However, plans are one thing and reality is something altogether different. No means are spared when it comes to developing the nuclear option. On the contrary, we currently maintain both an outrageously expensive nuclear infrastructure and an outrageously expensive and enormous Army. And, the maintenance of both is what closes down schools and hospitals, dries out agricultural fields, and makes illiteracy, malaise, and poverty thrive.

David Ben-Gurion would have been shocked to learn that his vision of building a nuclear infrastructure to prevent a second holocaust from befalling the Jewish people is indirectly leading to a different kind of catastrophe, of a tiny country committing economic suicide because of its decision to develop an additional military power.

This is the time for a public debate on fundamental questions of security regarding the nuclear option as opposed to, or along with, conventional weapons. This "sacred cow" should also be probed. It has been left out to pasture for a long time and has grown fat beyond all proportions.

AL-FAJR on Political Paradoxes in Mideast

TA261855 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 25 Mar 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Contradictory Indicators"]

[Text] The contradictory indicators that will determine whether this year, 1987, will be that of the international conference are, to a great extent, paradoxical. This makes it extremely difficult to assess the negative or positive aspects of this issue.

Will this conference take place this year or not? If it will, then how and on what basis? If it will not, then why not and when? These routine questions are being asked in this region and in most of the world's countries that are interested in peace in the Middle East and in achieving a political solution for the Palestinian problem.

On their part, the Arab countries, which are being flooded by a variety of indicators, have not yet drawn up a firm stance on this conference and the year during which it might be convened. However, they have at least clearly started to relate seriously to the conference "concept." For, at a time when Egypt and Jordan, for example, support the idea of devoting 1987 to the international conference or the preparatory committee, the Syrian regime, a principal and important party in this entire problem, still shows an unstable stance. It is embroiled in its bilateral relations with Iran on the one hand, and in its attempt to harm the Palestinian presence in Lebanon on the other. However, this very regime cannot stay out of the "major political game" in the region. Therefore, it is making efforts to enter into this game through the gate of the Soviet Union which, for its part, is trying to exert pressure for the convocation of this conference and to sort out its friends' attitudes on this issue.

As for the United States, it does not want any date to be set for this conference as long as it can keep exploiting political situations for the benefit of its interests and those of Israel, where indicators are fluctuating between a decisive rejection and a conditional acceptance that, in turn, is turning into a conditional rejection.

This leaves us with the Palestinian stance, the most important of all the major and minor powers. For this is the Palestinian cause, and a decision on this issue will have implications for the Palestinian existence in the full sense of the word: past, present, and future.

The genuineness of the Palestinian stance, which is facing a plethora of conflicting indicators all around, will not be decisively and firmly enhanced except by its unity and independence within the framework of the PLO. The extent to which this genuine Palestinian stance will be represented in the 18th session of the PNC in Algeria on 20 April 1987 will prove that the Palestinian indicator is the most important one in practice amid the existing paradoxes in the region.

Air Afrique Summit Opens in Niger 26 Mar
AB261505 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpts] After Lome in March 1985, it is Niamey's turn to host the fifth extraordinary summit of heads of state involved in the multinational Air Afrique airline company. The solemn opening session took place this morning at the Congress Hall with seven heads of state present — Presidents Seyni Kountche, Felix Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Ould Taya of Mauritania, General Mathieu Kerekou of Benin, Captain Thomas Sankara of Burkina Faso, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo, and Col Denis Sassou-Nguesso of Congo. The heads of state of Chad, Senegal, and the CAR were represented by their transport ministers.

The initial session of this fifth summit was also attended by Maman Oumarou, chairman of the National Development Council; Col Ali Seybou, chief of the FAN [Niger Armed Forces] General Staff; Prime Minister Hamid Algabit; [name indistinct], the grand chancellor of the National Orders; members of the Supreme Military Council [CSM] and the government, representatives of the diplomatic corps, and several other senior guests. For 2 days, the heads of state and the delegations will examine the various items on the agenda drafted by a ministerial committee, which met 2 days ago to prepare for the summit.

Prominent among the matters to be examined are questions relating to the status of staff, the recovery of debts and credits, and judicial and institutional problems. More specifically, the participants will examine the company's activities since the Lome summit, and will assess the implementation of decisions made as part of the company's recovery measures. These measures include a reduction in the number of workers and their benefits, as well as cuts in pay. The goal here is to streamline the company's administration and give it a more efficient structure; in short to give it a new impetus. In his opening address this morning, Head of State Gen Seyni Kountche said that the efforts of the past 2 years on Air Afrique's recovery program will be assessed today. However, if Air Afrique is to become viable and credible, Gen Kountche declared, we must impose in its administration the same guiding regulations, and the same recovery and development processes we apply to our own states.

[Begin Kountche recording] Dear Heads of State of the member-states of the multinational Air Afrique, dear Delegation Leaders, Ministers, Mr Managing Director of Air Afrique, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: Once again in the name of this fifth summit of member-states of the multinational Air Afrique, you are on Niger soil. Once again, you have given our people the happy opportunity to welcome you with modest means but also with the infinite resources of their hearts. [passage omitted]

During our fourth conference in Lome 2 years ago, we made important decisions concerning the future of our company. They concerned the need to begin the process necessary to revamp the operation of Air Afrique and to ensure its development [words indistinct]. At that time, we reaffirmed our commitment to our company, which was considered a privileged instrument in the service of our cooperation and our initiative. In the course of our present meeting, we will undoubtedly have this present meeting, it will be incumbent on us to assess the efforts made along this path of recovery. [passage omitted] [end recording]

For his part, Beninese Head of State Gen Mathieu Kerekou, the current chairman of the conference of heads of state of Air Afrique member-countries, began by expressing, on behalf of his counterparts, his sincere thanks to Gen Seyni Kountche, and to the government and people of Niger for the fraternal and warm welcome accorded them on their arrival in Niamey. According to Gen Kerekou, we must more than ever before impose rigor in the management of our common tool and constantly bear in mind the need to save the multinational Air Afrique. Nor did the Beninese head of state fail to congratulate all those who assumed their responsibilities with diligence when Air Afrique experienced an almost fatal crisis, alluding to several recent strikes that raged within the company. Let us listen to the address by the Beninese head of state.

[Begin recording] Your Excellencies, dear heads of state and government, delegation leaders, ministers, Mr Managing Director of Air Afrique, members of the diplomatic and consular corps, representatives of international organizations, ladies and gentlemen, comrades, dear friends: As we gather in this imposing hall for the solemn opening session of this extraordinary summit of our multinational Air Afrique, I wish on behalf of our colleagues the heads of state and government, or on behalf of their representatives, to express our sincere gratitude to our dear brother and friend, His Excellency Maj Gen Seyni Kountche, [applause] CSM chairman and president of Niger, and through him, to his government and all the valiant people of Niger for the warm, spontaneous, and militant welcome they accorded on our arrival in Niamey, capital of the Republic of Niger. [passage omitted]

Dear heads of state and government, dear delegation leaders, honorable invited guests, ladies and gentlemen: Just 2 years ago today, we met on the 22 and 23 March 1985 in Lome, the magnificent capital of the Republic of Togo, at a crucial time. The very existence of our common company, Air Afrique, was seriously threatened due to the adverse effects of the severe and protracted international economic crisis. It is no secret that the major elements of this deep crisis were the continued deterioration of the terms of trade, the rising and unlimited cost of manufactured goods, the instability of the U.S. dollar, the benchmark for all financial transactions, which had a direct impact on the payment of debts incurred by our Air Afrique and had untold effects on [words indistinct]. It is within this difficult economic situation, both for our states and for our multinational company — one of our most precious instruments of solidarity and subregional economic cooperation — that the idea of Air Afrique being on the verge of bankruptcy emerged. No one thought its planes would operate in Africa or the world ever again. In fact, the traditional enemies of our peoples and states think and say openly that all enterprises established and administered by and for Africans are doomed to failure and bankruptcy. They rejoice over our difficulties and prepare themselves secretly for the triumphal partition of the remains of Air Afrique. It was at that precise moment that the flying and technical personnel of our company chose to begin an illegal strike, which

had nearly fatal consequences and would have surely killed off the company had Gen Eyadema not taken strong measures. [passage omitted]

At this point and time, I would like to congratulate all my colleague heads of state who rightly assumed their responsibilities at a critical period in the life of our company. However, we cannot be satisfied without mentioning the name of our dear doyen, His Excellency President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, for the decisive and unparalleled role he played in the happy dissipation of this strike and all the dynamic and effective actions he has always taken since creating our multinational Air Afrique on 28 March 1961 in Yaounde. [passage omitted]

Your Excellencies, heads of state and government, heads of delegations, honorable invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, comrades and friends, there is no doubt that in spite of its shortcomings, Air Afrique has responded positively to the (?expectations) of our people, namely, to operate a regular air transport service among our states, and thus enhance the solidarity and cooperation among all partners without discrimination. In this context, Air Afrique has an appreciable [words indistinct] in Africa, linking at least once a week, the capitals of member-states. Therefore, the national status of Air Afrique should be a tangible reality in each of our states if we are not to run the risk of compromising its future. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, in the face of keen competition from foreign carriers, which are better equipped and better organized, we must more than ever impose rigor in the management of our common property. Air Afrique should, once and for all, do away with waste and every form of anarchy. We would therefore like to hail the wisdom, clearsightedness, and firmness each of you has shown throughout the 25-year life of our company, Air Afrique. That is why we should, today, 26 March 1987, solemnly renew our firm commitment to do everything to streamline the administrative, financial, and material management of our multinational company, Air Afrique.

Air Afrique, the exemplary model of inter-African solidarity and cooperation, should no longer be a second-rate firm, where mismanagement reigns supreme. Air Afrique, our common company, should henceforth lift high in Africa and in the world the colors of African unity, which it has embodied since its founding in Yaounde on 28 March 1961. This is the ardent wish we express on behalf of the heads of state and government of member-states of the multinational Air Afrique.

Long live Air Afrique, long live inter-African solidarity and cooperation.

Full success to your deliberations! Ready for the revolution, and the struggle continues! [applause] [end recording]

ECOWAS Tourism Meeting Opens in Sierra Leone

AB251342 Paris AFP in English 1028 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Freetown, March 25 (AFP) — Tourism ministers and experts from the Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS) are attending the first regional tourism conference which opened here Wednesday. The four-day conference will consider the criteria for the selection of the headquarters and permanent secretariat of the proposed West African Association of National Tourism Organizations (WAANTO).

WAANTO objectives include the exchange of data on tourism statistics for use in policy planning and marketing, adoption of common standards for tourism services and the promotion of regional tourism, including tours across borders.

The association, which is a specialised institution of ECOWAS, will be responsible to the organization's executive secretary. Membership is open only to the official tourist organizations of the 16 ECOWAS member-states.

Wednesday's conference is a sequel to a meeting held last November in the Ghanaian capital, Accra, of tourism ministers and state representatives from Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Senegal.

ALGERIA

French President Mitterrand Arrives for Talks

LD261348 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Algiers this morning for a working visit, which will include talks with President Chadli Bendjedid, head of state and secretary general of the FLN. The French president was welcomed at Boumedienne International Airport by President Chadli Bendjedid and other senior party and state officials. The two presidents reviewed a detachment of the Republican Guards before listening to the Algerian and French national anthems. The French president shook hands with the officials on hand to greet him.

Paris Radio Notes Agenda

LD261354 Paris Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpt] The French hostages in Lebanon and terrorism will probably figure largely in the talks that President Mitterrand is to have today with Algerian Head of State Chadli Bendjedid in Algiers, where he arrived late this morning. The hostages will be raised due to Algeria's definite role in the release of some of them, and terrorism because the Algerians did not at all appreciate the sentencing of Georges Ibrahim 'Abdallah. Ralph Pinto reports:

[Pinto] Algiers maintains political relations with many people in Lebanon. It has been able to act as an intermediary in the hostage affair, but cannot do everything. Therefore, Francois Mitterrand must ask the questions, and he will be alone for private talks at lunch with President Chadli at his villa at Zeralda. Illness prevented Jean-Bernard Raimond from making the trip. [passage omitted]

Urges Habre-Goukouni Reconciliation

LD262341 Paris Domestic Service in French
2030 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In fact, it is now clear that the Chadian conflict is above all a war between two states, Francois Mitterrand recalled this afternoon in Algiers during a joint news conference with President Chadli. The president encouraged reconciliation efforts between the one-time enemy brothers:

[Begin Mitterrand recording] I am fully in favor of any initiative that tends to reconcile the various Chadian factions and their leaders in particular. Algeria, as well as France, is playing an active part. If, as I wish, Mr Goukouni Oueddei and Mr President Hissein Habre are able to organize together and on the basis of their own decision in which (?I need not intervene), a solemn and at the same time [word indistinct] reconciliation of those who have for a long time fought against each other, this would be an event of [word indistinct] importance for Chad. However, we must say that the essential has been accomplished: There are few factions that escape the authority of the government of Chad. But Mr Oueddei is a significant and highly respected figure (?of symbolic importance), because [word indistinct] civil war in Chad. It is the evidence that tells us we are seeing a war against a foreign country and an occupation army. Yes, I want there to be a reconciliation on bases I am not qualified to define. [end recording]

Holds News Conference, Departs

LD262054 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1830 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand left Algiers this evening following a 1-day working visit, which included a 5-hour talk with President Chadli Bendjedid. Their discussion centered on both bilateral and international issues. A short but successful visit, to use the French president's own words. Francois Mitterrand met with the national and international press at the El Mithak residence and answered a series of questions. On bilateral problems, the French head of state recalled that commissions are already at work to find solutions acceptable to both parties. As for the principle of the intangibility [as heard] of borders inherited from colonialism and whether or not this principle is applicable to western Sahara, Francois Mitterrand said:

[Begin recording] I feel that the peoples who live within these borders have the right to say what they intend to do with their own destiny. I said that in Lome, and I say it again today. I have no difficulty in remaining loyal to myself. [end recording]

Turning to the Middle East, the French head of state also touched on the idea of organizing an international conference:

[Begin recording] I think, in fact that I was — excuse me if I am wrong — the first West European leader to have accepted this idea, which came from the Middle East. I am referring to the organization of an international conference on the problems of this region — but with adding the procedure, because the principle...[Mitterrand changes thought] I am far from being the first [sentence as heard]. I have long wished that this problem could be settled by bilateral relations, which seemed unattainable. The procedure I indicated was to organize a contact group, a preparatory working group, without...[Mitterrand changes thought] Among the questions was the one you asked. Since such a conference has not been prepared, there is some risk of failure at the moment when everybody comes together and there is no agenda. But the idea I proposed was: Why not entrust to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — at any rate, among others — the responsibility for doing this preparatory work. This has certain advantages, as you will see at once, of involving at the very heart of the talks countries such as the United States or the Soviet Union, which cannot be ignored, and, if you will allow me to say, other states including France, which are very familiar with these problems.

Of course this is not an all-inclusive list, nor is it up to me to decide on this. In any case, these five...[Mitterrand changes thought] Mr Gorbachev, whom I met shortly afterward, formulated a similar idea and we agreed on this subject. There was not a French-Soviet proposal; there was a French proposal and a Soviet one, which lead in fact to the same end. [end recording]

President Francois Mitterrand also answered questions connected with the Georges Ibrahim 'Abdallah affair, the Chadian issue, East-West relations, and the status of our emigrant community. While commenting on this subject, he condemned racism while stressing the right of immigrant workers to security.

FLN Leader Messaadia Visits Cuba 21 March

For coverage of the visit by FLN leader Mohamed Cherif Messaadia to Cuba, see the Cuba section of the 25 March Latin America *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks on Economy

LD270222 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a meeting with members of the General People's Committee and secretaries of the people's committees of the municipalities; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] In your capacity as the party that implements the decisions of the people's congresses, let me discuss with you some of the issues that might contradict some of the existing legislation. But, as history tells us, 'Umar al-Khattab [the second Rashidin Caliph] abolished the Al-Hadd punishment [legal punishment in Islamic law], the severing of the hand in Al-Ramada year, which was the year of famine. The thief had his hand cut off, but as a result of the famine in Al-Ramada, he abolished the penalty, which is prescribed in the Koran. This is what we find on one side, and on the other there is the experience we gained in starting the implementation of revolutionary socialism, which we must benefit from. If it was possible to stop something prescribed in the Koran through someone like 'Umar al-Khattab, there may be other legislation at this level. This must be very briefly explained before we can embark on the issues we are talking about.

The socialist, popular, or jamahiriyah theories attempt to lift pressures off people, break their chains, and liberate them so that they can be happy. They liberate them and their needs; liberate them from the control of others, like the hired hand who works for a master. This is control just like the colonizer's control over the colonized. When your needs are in someone else's hand you are not free. This is pressure from someone else on your freedom. Revolution paves the way for liberation and for people to be happy. These are fundamental things that can never be changed. The motto, partners, not hired hands, is firm: There must be no hired hands; each must be the partner of all.

Nobody can answer me with quotes from the *Green Book*, for example. I know they use it as an excuse without knowing or understanding. Many people use the *Green Book* as a pretext without reading it at all, or without finishing it — and it is only 40 pages long. (?Some have not even read) 10 pages of it and they brag and boast about the *Green Book*.

The *Green Book* says partners, not hired hands. Partners with whom? Nobody is able to provide an answer. The Libyan people then made certain exaggerated applications. They spoke of partnership in society. The *Green Book* does not speak of partnership in society. It speaks of partners, not hired hands. What is important is that there be no people hired by you or by society. Partnership with you, or with a group, or with society is a matter of equality, which means that no one is the slave of another. If someone grazed your sheep for a wage he would be a slave. When someone drives your car and loads it or drives your carriage or cart and loads it for a wage, or when someone makes something and gives it to you for a wage or ploughs your land for pay, it becomes slavery, as a wage represents a part of the effort you exerted. That is why the social system that advocates social equality and is called socialism in the final (?stage), which the popular theory mentions, seeks to prohibit wages. After all, a wage means stealing the efforts of others. A wage means a part of the effort one makes and if we want to establish equality and justice, then one should get all the proceeds of his efforts.

The value of this effort might be in other things. If you exerted effort in the making of a car, or the purchase of a car, and another person came to drive it, his driving is an effort for which he should be rewarded in full. Your ownership of this car is an effort which should also be rewarded in full. The important thing is that no one is stealing the effort of the other in the interest of another. Hence wages were banned in the law of social justice. Thus, wages mean the theft of man's efforts. Justice is participation. The *Green Book* did not say that participation must be with the state. The talk is about partners, not wage earners. This means that people work together on equal terms as partners. There is no employer and employee. There is no wage earner, no wage earners.

If we find in Libya 1,000 farms on which 1,000 families live, but in order to raise the productivity of those 1,000 farms, another 1,000 families are required to serve with the first 1,000 families who own the 1,000 farms, if they become partners in production, is this injustice? Is it slavery? Does this contradict the theory which says partners, not wage earners? Never! If we find 1,000 farms in Libya which need another 1,000 families, fine, that is better. Let the farms absorb 2,000 families who would be partners in production, with the ownership of the 1,000 farms resting with their first owners. In other words, we now have 1,000 farmers in any project who own 1,000 farms, but each one needs someone to work with him. In other words, a family of five works on a farm and this farm needs another five people ito operate to full capacity; the other family can work on the farm of the first family on the basis of the participation system, and this does not contradict the theory of the liberation of people from exploitation. They will all be equal in this case. This one has a farm and the other has his effort. I take the dues of my farm and you take the dues of your effort. Has one exploited the other? Never. We entered into a partnership and split the output of this farm equally. We split it equally. The fact is — and please excuse me for not telling you at the start — I spent about 2 months in the countryside and made an analysis, study, evaluation, and reevaluation outside the framework of this administrative work. I saw real examples, cases which exist now in Libya which prompted me to deliver this talk. I found a farm which was reclaimed after the revolution and given to a family. This family

consists of four people. This is an example. It consists of a father, a mother, and two sons. They farmed it for about 7-8 years. Now when I saw this model farm again, I found thorns and weeds had grown on it and I found it neglected. No one was working on it. Why had this farm, which adjoins a known road and can be seen, and which was a good farm, deteriorated? They told me one of the sons got married and moved away. He took another job, which keeps him away from his family. The other son also got another job, probably the armed forces, or maybe something else. Thus, the old parents remain on their own, and now they have grown too old. What will they do with the farm since they cannot get near it? They said: Well, you said everyone owns his farm and is not allowed to employ another person. The result is that this farm no longer produces, and we lost the effort which we had invested in it. The parents have now applied for social security assistance, as their sons — one got another job and the other got married — left them. Since they cannot work the farm, they will die of hunger. Well, let us then turn to social security, despite the fact that the farm is sufficient to meet their needs and those of others.

This is only one case, this is an example. There can be hundreds, probably thousands of farms in this state. In this case, if the owners of this farm take two or three people, even one — whatever they need — to work with them on this farm and split the output equally between them and this family, there is no injustice in this and this is in harmony with the theory of partners, not wage earners. But if they tell them, come and work for us on this farm and we will give you a monthly wage, this means that they are paid only for their efforts. The word wage means part of an effort. The remainder goes to the employer. The word wage means that you worked 7 hours, were paid for 5 hours, and 2 hours went to the employer unjustly. But participation means your effort plus the effort of the owner. Hence participation in the private sector should exist to increase production and to make people work together. It is possible now for any family that has a farm to participate in the production with another family. This should be allowed and legitimate; it does not contradict the theory or the law of social justice.

Other examples: A man has a herd, has animals — the same thing happened to him. The old man died, the old women is sitting at home, their [word indistinct] one of them died, and the other left. Then the animals went, and now she applies for social security despite the fact that she is rich, she has enough animals. She can employ another Libyan after agreeing on participation with him, to look after the herd for an equal share. Also the truck, I found examples of this type. The truck belongs to the one who drives it. This is fine, but what about a person who cannot drive his truck? He cannot bring in a wage-earner, as this is exploitation and is not allowed. Thus, the truck ended up stationary and the owner is applying for social security, despite the fact that the vehicle can bring him income and provide livelihood not only for his family but also for another family or two.

Yet the truck is parked with flat tires and rusting parts, (?abandoned) in the name of socialism. It does not make sense. Who said this is socialism? This is contrary to socialism, to revolution, to progress, and production; this is fastidiousness. One could hire a chauffeur and share with him the income he gets from the car because the car requires effort and so does driving. The driver is then not considered a slave or somebody who is being exploited, or anything of the kind. This is the reality we have actually discovered on the farms, the workshops, and with cars and even animals; the same applies, and all in the name of a misinterpretation of the theory. These are not wage-earners, they are partners.

The other pattern I have seen is in the factories owned by the state, the state of the masses — I mean the light industries. Their situation is rather bad, with production in decline and with some of them having to close down. The Tripoli foundry, for example, was productive; now it is closed. Why is that? Is it not a productive and efficient firm? If it is not, why did it start up in the first place and how did we assess the economic utility of this project? [Words indistinct] but I believe that the reason behind this is public ownership and you have failed to achieve the goal of partners, not wage earners in the factories. The workers are still wage earners, and some of them are not interested in production. The basis of the theory partners, not wage earners, is to solve the problem of incentives. If production is low, we should make an effort to increase it so as to raise our share. But if we are still receiving wages, production does not grow, and this is precisely what is happening. We have carried out studies and we have seen factories without...[Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] Some go to receive their military training for 2 days, but instead they stay away for 10 days. This proves that they have wages in the factory and not a share in the production; otherwise, they should not stay away. Some pretend to be ill, others sign in and leave.

This proves that the system of partnership is not implemented and you are not capable of implementing it because you do not believe in it and lack sufficient courage to take part in such an experiment. This subsequently led to poor production in light industries. Yet some people talk (?proudly) and others boast on television documentaries concerning national industries, from food products to clothes, furniture... [Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought]People say, where are all these factories, where is their output? They even hold interviews on the factory's production capacity. So be it. If its capacity is as they say, it is surely using only part of this capacity. In other words, there is a paralysis in production. Whenever they show a factory on television, people say, where is this output, why can we not see it on the market? This is true, the people are right. The factory is there, indeed. Moreover, a lot of effort went into building it, and we spent a long time building these factories. We have talked about the number we built in past years. However, after they were built and we expected them to start operating, they did not. Why? Because they are state property and those working in them are wage earners; they careless. Thus there is no assiduity and no interest in them.

The solution which does not correspond to, for instance, the system of partnership because it is more forceful, but can solve your problem — this solution would be to return all property to its owners. Then there would not be any state property. Any group of workers, 500 workers in any factory for instance, could own this factory and live off it. They would have cards and would not be allowed to undertake any other activity as they would live only off its production. Afterwards, you would sort out with them how they could pay you back the cost of the factory, how they

should pay taxes on production to the public treasury. Then you would see how the factories would be looked after by their owners and you would see their production, because they would be forced to produce in them as they would live off these factories which would have become their property.

With the exception of heavy industries, which should be state owned, and where there is in fact no neglect — apart from the cement factories, which really should be part of the light industries — these should be owned by those who work in them. As a matter of fact I have carried out a study of the cement industry in Libya at present, which was set up by the revolution, and I learned that its production could be sufficient for Libya and some of it could even be exported, whereas in fact its total production does not exceed that of one factory. We also carried out, as you recall, a study on the cement factory in Darnah, and on the industrial complex in Banghazhi, and we discovered that the production of all the factories in the Jamariyah equals the production of only one of these factories, as if five of them were closed and only one were operating. It is clear that there is a paralysis, especially in the cement industry, despite the existence of a sufficient number of cement factories. There should be enough cement and it should be cheap. We could even export it. Nevertheless, when you find it, it is expensive and is not exported despite the fact that the factories we built should suffice to make cement abundant and cheap, with a surplus to be exported. Unfortunately, this has not been achieved. As for the other heavy industries, with the exception of cement, they are operating well. It seems to me that it is due to the highly qualified workforce and their limited number [as heard].

It appears that the petrochemical and chemical industries are very good, and when there is steel and iron. [sentence as heard] We still need studies on the automobile, tire, and tractor industries. If we find them paralyzed they will also become light industries. If we find them working like the petrochemical and chemical industries [word indistinct] and others, they will perhaps remain among the heavy industries. If a state manages production units in an underdeveloped world like ours, this is a failed operation and those who avoid this failure have fallen into the prohibited, they have become right-wing, they have sold the public sector and made it the property of the exploiters. [sentence as heard] One man came and bought the factory and brought servants whom he employed with wages.

We said that the word wages means a part of your effort [words indistinct] It is not possible that the departments called government departments, which are now the people's departments, would be able to produce or to make something (?public). You will fail even in the administration of the market. The market, which was managed by the traders and which they obtained, will not be like that. However, you make it like a government market. Whatever you do now they say that this is a government. We know that it is the people's government; nevertheless, it is a government. There are employees of different grades. If (?we get) an employee who cannot run a market, a farm, or a factory...[Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] This concerns industry and agriculture.

Now we come to the bad and serious point which is unexpected and which must happen even if it is unexpected; we come to trade. However, whoever previously had a shop, who was previously engaged in trade, he must not be pleased because he is excluded from this operation, from these observations. People lining up for macaroni is something that has no place in socialism, or revolution, and there is no benefit in it. Even if it were beneficial, it destroys the people. It will at least create a person who is disillusioned by revolution and socialism, and it is not possible for a person to get disillusioned by a revolution that achieves socialism.

The revolution is rights and justice, and one is ready to die for it because it achieves something that is morally and materially useful. If the person loses something material or moral in the name of revolution, then it is no revolution. Revolution is something sacred, and there is never room for mistakes in it. The mistake is in the other things that are done in the name of revolution. Revolution never says there should be lines for macaroni in Libya. How can one who went to the market (?yesterday) say: I have returned without macaroni, and I have made studies in the past 2 months. I went to the market, and I came back without macaroni. Why is there no macaroni? They say there is macaroni. So (?why are there) lines for macaroni?

If there are lines for macaroni due to a shortage, the country is poor. Well, too bad, most people in the world are poor and look for food. In Sudan, for instance, you see that thousands of people are dying, despite the fact they have the Nile. Dozens or sometimes hundreds of Sudanese die on the way up to Libya, until they reach Al-Kufrah and Libya, where they are given food. You see the march of people from Mali, from southern Algeria, from Niger, and from Mauritania coming for relief to survive. There are poor people. We have a quarter of a million Chadians who have marched from Chad, escaping poverty, and have come to Libya. They are poor people who have no means of existence in the world. However, when there are things and there are lines for them, this is... [Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] The Libyans, for instance, have money and cannot find anything to buy. There are people who have things. I told you once, that in a very poor country in Africa, I found an old lady selling (?packaged) macaroni. I passed her twice (?during my 2-day visit to that country), in the street, and the maraconi was beside her. Since the country is poor, the people die of hunger because nobody has the money to buy this macaroni. [passage omitted]

People's power exists to eliminate problems. Let the people think for themselves. How much macaroni do you want? Let the Libyan people agree on this and say: Each of our families wants to consume a kilogram of macaroni a day, for every family, not more than a kilogram. Multiply 500,000 families by 1 kg of macaroni. How much macaroni can you import, produce, and distribute so that everyone gets his share? [passage omitted]

Libyans want foreign cigarettes such as — what are they called — King's or Rothmans? [Al-Qadhdhafi laughs; someone in the audience says "king size"] Yes, king size. All people, not just Libyans, like the products of others. This is a problem (?and should be explained). If importing foreign cigarettes is harmful to the budget then the people should understand that, conclude that it is harmful, and therefore give it up. What would actually happen is this: Someone would smuggle in foreign cigarettes,

there would be a black market, and money would appear. [passage omitted with indistinct portions]

Public markets where one buys a commodity for 5 [currency not specified] and sells it for 5 reflect justice. This is in the interest of the people, this is what revolution and socialism mean. This, however, has not been achieved. Those responsible for the markets, the economy, and distribution have not been able to attain this, and the people who made the decisions and those whose interest are served by such markets have not been able to understand this or benefit from it. They have not benefited. Essentially, in public trade, or publicly owned trade, there should be no profit. A thousand times we (?would give an example) and say such an item is worth 5 but the merchant would sell it for 10. Now there are no merchants. The people buy an item for 5 and sell it for 5, but, really, now, in Libya is an item bought for 5 and sold for 5? No, it is sold not for 5 but for 15, more than the merchant would charge. [passage omitted]

Libya should be the cheapest country because its trade is publicly owned. But it is not, despite the fact that trade is publicly owned. Why? [Words indistinct]. Nobody should say this is the result of pressure from the exploiting class, the reactionary class which has made us go backward. There is no pressure from a reactionary class; there is no longer a reactionary or exploiting class. Nobody who had a shop in the past and from whom you took the shop has plotted against you, and such people would not be allowed to engage in trade anew even if we allowed trade again. He would not be allowed to engage in trade. Private trade is exploitation. Pupils in elementary schools know this. [passage omitted]

It is a known fact that private trade is exploitation. Furthermore, there is no effort in it. One who buys and sells, what is his contribution to the people? I want this above all to be understood. Anyway, the goods in the markets should all be distributed to shops and, God willing [word indistinct]. How can there be people lining up everywhere for everything, and how can this be called revolution? This is neither revolution nor socialism. [Al-Qadhdhafi interrupts himself to address someone in the hall] Discussions later, doctor.

It should be a real service that people should be willing to perform. Such and such a person, who has nothing to do, should come and get the commodities for which people are lining up in the markets and distribute them on every street. This is a necessary service in return for which [word indistinct]. Also, let people try. It has been claimed that these markets are evil. So let them try, give them private shops. Maybe they would be better for the people and maybe, after trying them, the people would find them expensive and costly and say no, give us back what we had. We are not afraid. This is on condition that these shops are a means of distribution. The goods stockpiled in the markets must be distributed so that when you go out on the street you find someone who will sell you something. There are some provisos here: Only the elderly from whom we can no longer benefit in agriculture, industry, or war should be the ones to make a living from their service to the people by opening a shop and beginning a distribution process. They should not hire anyone to sell goods with them. Nobody who has engaged in trade in the past should be allowed to do so again, because he had his share in the past. Along with this, we should keep the public markets and organize them with revolutionary spirit.

No one who has previously engaged in trade will be allowed to do so again. Let them take his share and look for something else. Despite this we want to maintain public markets and organize them [word indistinct] as revolutions work without having anything to do with you. We will look for educated people, people who are aware and understand socialism. They are the ones we intend to have benefit from these markets. Later, the wretched and simple people [word indistinct] the revolution may, after trying shops, return to these markets, and the markets will make profits again. Public markets will not be closed down, but we will maintain them in a different way. [passage omitted]

Foreign trade is nationalized in most countries — there is no doubt about this; the state supervises external trade. But after the goods arrive here, they are given to distributors. Let the elderly, pensioners, physically handicaped, and widows and divorced women; those who are [words indistinct] or on social security; let them engage in trade. There is a force that is unemployed, incapable of producing; agriculture and industrial production, fighting, and others. Let them live on this. Perhaps they will lift the burden off social security. If someone has a shop there is no need to give them a basic payment. [passage omitted]

Agricultural, industrial, and other production must have specific markets and people [words indistinct] as for a public company of the government — state-owned, as they say in other countries — actually trading, this proved to be a failure, although it is the right path. I wish there were a company owned by the people that would collect all the agricultural products belonging to farmers and distribute them to people who buy these products or export them. This is ideal. There is nothing wrong with this. Public markets [words indistinct] this is the right way. However, now we are facing a different reality. The right way did not work. The right things do not always work or succeed. Not at all. Not necessarily. Perhaps evil things succeed, depending on circumstances and capabilities. The good and virtuous person does not succeed. He should succeed, but does not necessarily. Maybe the evil one succeeds because of other circumstances which have nothing to do with whether he is good or not. [passage omitted]

Markets — that is, a company that takes agricultural produce from the farmer at a reasonable price and sells it to consumers without any commission — are a good thing, but are not necessary for this work. The private markets are lucky, they succeed. Markets should set up where the farmer brings his produce and gives it to another who piles it in the market and the people come and buy from him. [passage indistinct] In addition we can ask a certain body to go to certain farms and take their produce at a reasonable price and put it on the market without an increase in price. Respectable people, those who understand their interest, will buy from this market. They know that the other private market is one of commissions and that there are commission agents who take the produce of the farms and double the price. But there is another market, for people who understand their interest and use it. They find it cheap. But to lock them all [words indistinct] this is unreasonable.

Any private activity has an element of exploitation, but when it becomes a necessary service, we accept this exploitation. In this case, the exploitation becomes the yield of service, the return on service. Consequently, one can open a coffee shop, restaurant, or hotel on the condition that he can run it comfortably. Such services do not accept participation, there are no shares that can be divided. If one of his own runs a coffee shop, let him do so. One runs a restaurant. I wish for restaurants so we can close all the kitchens at home, so we no longer buy ovens, heaters, electric and gas appliances. When society develops, everything will exist in the street and the burdens on the home will no longer exist. Since you want women to work and you talk about women's equality with men, women cannot work, bear and bring up children, and then cook and sweep the home. This cannot be. This is unjust. Do you think this is liberation? This is not liberation. These are extra burdens. [passage omitted]

In the end the home should be free of the work now done by women. First of all, food should be prepared in restaurants. In the future homes should be free of kitchens except facilities to prepare tea or coffee, and perhaps you could even order it from a nearby cafe or go there to drink it. No cooking will be done at home; the kitchen is cancelled.

In the future utilities will be transferred to the street; they will be removed from the home. Let us broaden our imagination. The bath might be eliminated from the home. Its presence in the home is now required because it is needed. The home should be free of the bath. When the baths exist in the street...[Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] Why is there no theater at home, for instance? You go to the theater because there is no room in the home for it. Anything for which there is no room in the home is put outside. The assumption here is that the home has no room for bath. You would think people want to bathe at home. This is not reasonable from the health point of view, or from any other. The home in which you sleep should not have a bath. When you have a public bath nearby, you go to it. [passage omitted]

Let people run cafes on the condition that the owner does not employ others, but runs it himself. He provides a service to us. If you want women to work, food and other things should exist outside. There should be laundries outside. Let the one who runs a laundry, a bakery...[Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] We will find fresh bread. We send our clothes to the laundry for cleaning, and we pay the laundryman.

The state washes clothes and prepares your food; this is what we are doing now. The state runs the cafe. We know that there is exploitation in such things. You did not produce a thing: The coffee was bought abroad; the spoon was bought abroad. You mixed them together; the cost was piaster and was sold to us for 2 piasters. But in fact you provided us with a service. Yet (?although exploitation is evident), I never said these things are banned since the eruption of the revolution, not in the *Green Book* or anywhere. There is no room for a wage earner.

We said it is right for one to serve himself because no one else is making a profit from his effort. When the people sell to themselves, there is no profit. I mean when the cafe belongs to the municipality, it only provides a service. But we were unable to do this; our municipality is unable to do this. When a shephard becomes a municipal official, how can he run a cafe or a laundry? [Al-Qadhdhafi laughs] Some people have the ability to do such things.

Even if someone wants to run a a bath house, he can say: I want to run a bath on this road; give me a permit. We give him hot water, towels and soap, and the doctor comes and examines him. That is it. He will get his permit. He is offering us a service. He will wash us. [passage omitted including words in local dialect]

These are basic things, and I give examples, but everything within these principle is correct. First, there is the concept of partners, not hired hands. No one should be someone else's hired hand [words indistinct] There is no production before division into shares. Anyone who runs a hotel, cafe, or a bath house on his own may do so [words indistinct]. These are services and run on his own effort.

As for production, such as industry, agriculture, and others, others must participate. A car owner who becomes incapable of driving his vehicle can bring someone else and share half of it. [passage omitted]

MAURITANIA

Spanish Foreign Minister Ends Visit, Departs

AB261104 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez left Nouakchott last night for home following a 48-hour visit to our country. He was seen off by Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, CMSN member and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, the Spanish ambassador in Nouakchott, and several other high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Before his departure, the Spanish minister and our minister of foreign affairs and cooperation jointly presided over the closing session of the meeting of the Mauritanian-Spanish Joint Economic and Technical Cooperation Commission which began on Tuesday [24 March] evening. [passage omitted]

On the occasion, Maj Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, CMSN member and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, made a statement in which he recalled that Spain and Mauritania are linked by history and geography and that the visit of his Spanish counterpart to Mauritania seeks to strengthen the bilateral cooperation that happily exists between the two countries, adding that our country has played an important role in fostering relations between Africa and the Arab world, on one hand, and between the Arab world and Europe, on the other. He noted with satisfaction the decision of the Spanish Government to give priority to its cooperation with Mauritania. Still on cooperation between the two countries, the minister added that the two sides have decided to meet twice a year.

The Spanish foreign minister, for his part, expressed satisfaction with the high level of discussions he held with top-ranking Mauritanian officials. According to him, the discussions enabled them to strengthen the secular relations existing between the two

countries. He said that he delivered to the head of state an invitation from the king of Spain asking the Mauritanian president to pay an official visit to Spain.

Earlier, a press communique was issued concerning the discussions that the Spanish foreign minister held with Mauritanian officials during his visit to Nouakchott — discussions concerning the prospects for cooperation between Spain and Mauritania. [passage omitted]

French African Affairs Adviser Concludes Visit

AB261108 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Jacques Foccart, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's adviser on African and Malagasy affairs, left yesterday after delivering to the head of state a message from Jacques Chirac. During his stay in our country, Jacques Foccart also held discussions with several government officials and paid a visit to Atar, the capital of Adrar region.

MOROCCO

Reports of U.S. Base Transfer 'Groundless'

LD261353 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Rabat, 26 March (MAP) — Press reports saying that some U.S. bases in Spain would be transferred to Morocco following negotiations with General Vernon Walters, are groundless, authorized sources reported in Rabat.

There are only rumors by quarters specialized in disinformation with the aim of propagating wranglings, the same sources reported.

UN Representative's Meeting With Israeli Denied

LD261219 Rabat MAP in French 1000 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] [no dateline as received] Authorized sources in Rabat have categorically denied reports by certain news agencies concerning an alleged meeting at the United Nations between the UN representative of the Kingdom of Morocco and an Israeli official. The same sources explained that such claims are pure invention.

SUDAN

Libya Urges Khartoum To Oppose French in Chad

JN261834 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1739 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Mar (SUNA) — 'Umar Ishkal, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee Secretariat and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's envoy, has affirmed that Sudanese and Libyan views are identical on finding an African solution to the Chadian problem without the interference of countries having no links with Africa.

In a statement to SUNA here today, Ishkal urged the Arab and African nation to explicitly announce its stand on the French presence in Chad and to work to evict the French forces and end the American presence in Chad.

Ishkal said that Libya will fight imperialism everywhere, supported by the various liberation movements. He appealed to the Arab and African mass media not be affected by the imperialist forces' propaganda campaign against the Arab and African nation and to confront it.

Ishkal pointed out that there is a reactionary scheme to undermine any revolutionary or liberating role of the Arab, Islamic, and African nation.

SPLA Denies Government Forces Attacking Pibor

EA251738 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] A military spokesman for the SPLA has denied reports that Khartoum government forces have besieged Pibor. The spokesman admitted that the enemy carried out air raids on Pibor from time to time, but said that Pibor was neither under siege nor was it being bombarded by enemy artillery. There is no enemy presence anywhere in the vicinity of Pibor, which is firmly under SPLA control, the spokesman said.

He said that the enemy had already started a major thrust in an effort to reach its besieged garrisons before the rainy season sets in. Our intelligence units are monitoring enemy troop movements very closely and we are fully confident of successfully preempting enemy strikes, the spokesman concluded.

TUNISIA

Iranian Diplomats Given 3 Days To Leave

NC262105 Paris AFP in English 2049 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Tunis, March 26 (AFP) — Five Iranian diplomats based here have been given three days to leave Tunisia, following the government's decision Thursday to break diplomatic ties with Iran, according to official sources.

Iranian charge d'affaires in Tunis Kanaani Band Kohal [spelling as received] was given the orders Thursday morning after being summoned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry and informed of the government's intention and the reasons behind it. [passage omitted]

The break in relations follows the arrest in Paris and the East African state of Djibouti of suspected terrorists carrying Tunisian passports.

There is no Tunisian embassy in Tehran, and although both countries belong to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Tunisia has openly supported Iraq in its seven-year-old war with Iran.

Foreign Minister Gives News Conference
PM241542 Tunis L'ACTION in French 11 Mar 87 pp 5,8

[Unattributed report: "Our Foreign Policy is Independent and Subordinate to None"]

[Text] Hedi Mabrouk had his first meeting with the representatives of the national and foreign press in Dar Maghrebia, Carthage the day before yesterday [9 March]. No less than 200 journalists were present, including a large number of Maghreb and Arab colleagues.

For more than 3 hours our foreign minister had to answer questions relating to current problems such as inter-Maghreb relations, the situation in the Near East, Euro-Arab relations, Arab-African relations, Tunisian-Libyan relations, Tunisian foreign policy, and so forth.

Hedi Mabrouk promised not to evade any question and to leave no doubts, and he kept his promise. The general opinion was that his answers were clear, frank, and convincing, the terms he used were precise and his analysis of the problems stringent. For journalists accustomed to the prevarication of diplomats, Mr Mabrouk's style provided a striking contrast.

By way of introduction, Hedi Mabrouk stressed that this news conference, which will be followed by others on a regular basis, will enable Tunisians to keep abreast of matters affecting their country's international relations. He noted that this is a fundamental option introduced by the head of state in keeping with our democratic principles.

The foreign minister then explained the unchanging tenets underlying Tunisian foreign policy.

In Mr Mabrouk's view, the foreign minister's mission is relatively easy, as he must simply be imbued with the principles laid down by Bourguibian philosophy — principles based on the people's will — to accomplish his task properly.

In general, Mr Mabrouk explained, Tunisia's foreign policy is based on the following fundamental principles:

— Tunisia is part of the Arab Maghreb geographically, historically, and linguistically.

— Tunisia is an Arab and Muslim country. It therefore participates in anything that may help it express its identity.

— Tunisia is a country open to the world. Our choice of society points us in the direction of cooperation with the Western world, but does not prevent us from seeking warm and cordial cooperation with the Eastern bloc countries.

In short, Tunisia is physically African, emotionally Arab, and spiritually Muslim, and its policy is not based on whims or rumors.

Despite its small size and limited natural resources, Tunisia can play a major role on the international stage.

In this connection, the foreign minister cited President Bourguiba's reply to a European diplomat, who told him several years ago that Tunisia is no bigger than a postage stamp on the world map.

"Yes," the head of state replied, "but you cannot mail a letter without a stamp."

Hedi Mabrouk then answered the many questions that were put to him on various subjects, notably the building of the Arab Maghreb, Tunisian-Libyan relations, inter-Arab relations, the Iran-Iraq war, and so forth....

Inter-Maghreb Relations [subhead]

Hedi Mabrouk stressed that the building of the Great Arab Maghreb has been a deep aspiration for several generations.

Tunisia, he explained, attaches great importance to the idea of building the Maghreb, which it regards as vital. Indeed, the solution to the region's problems, be they economic or social, depends on this. Unfortunately, reality has so far not kept up with the dream.

Tunisia has always worked, and is still working, to promote this building process.

It was in this spirit that the treaty of fraternity and concord was signed with Algeria in March 1983 — a treaty that Mauritania joined and which has had a great many positive results.

Our relations with Morocco are warmly fraternal. Our objective is to create the right conditions for building a Maghreb community.

In this connection, and in reply to a question on the Tunisian stance on the Sahara problem, Hedi Mabrouk said essentially that "Tunisia is trying to ensure that its stances enable it to play a constructive role." We are not doing a "balancing act" and we do not indulge in negative neutrality. We try to have a position which enables us to be useful and we refuse to adopt a course which prevents us from playing a beneficial role, he said.

Is he optimistic about the building of the Maghreb? "Yes," he replied. Will this be achieved in the near future? We sincerely hope so, he answered.

With regard to Libya, Hedi Mabrouk stressed that it is a neighboring country with a fraternal people and that "We have every reason in the world for agreeing."

Tunisian-Libyan Relations [subhead]

After discussing the crisis that occurred in August 1985 following the arbitrary expulsion of 32,000 workers, the freezing of Tunisian assets in Libya, and that country's refusal to pay for goods supplied, Mr Mabrouk said that the Libyan leaders recently seem to have wanted to create a new climate. We have been in no hurry, but neither have we refused, he said.

After referring to the contacts he had in Paris with his Libyan

counterpart when he was Tunisian ambassador to France, Hedi Mabrouk stressed that Tunisia is anxious to avoid any reconciliation with Libya surrounded by ambiguity. That will enable us to prevent future relations from being jeopardized. He stated that the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries should follow the settlement of the dispute, namely compensation for the expelled workers, the release of frozen assets, and the payment of debts.

In this connection, he said Libya has already payed 6.5 million of the 9 million dollars of Tunis-Air assets in that country and that negotiations are under way on compensation for the workers expelled.

In this context, Mr Mabrouk forcefully stressed that Tunisia, which is still open to cooperation, is anxious to defend its sovereignty without making any concessions.

Inter-Arab Relations and the Middle East Problem [subhead]

One of the fundamental principles of Tunisian policy is to work for rapprochement among Arab brothers, Hedi Mabrouk explained, and he stressed that our country supports any effort to achieve this and has played an active role in promoting an Arab summit. This summit is necessary in the present situation in which a malicious campaign is being waged against the Arab world which is wrongly being blamed for all crimes. All the Arab countries want this summit to be held.

It is scheduled to be held in Riyadh and we want it to take place in the Saudi capital as a tribute to the efforts of Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf countries to serve the Arab nation. But if, for one reason or another, Tunisia, headquarters of the Arab League, is asked to host this summit, we will welcome it and be prepared to do so, he said.

Turning to the Middle East problem, the foreign minister then welcomed the recent EEC statement on this subject which was welcomed almost everywhere in the world and which complements the statement made in Venice in 1980. "This statement will certainly be examined at the Arab League foreign ministers' council meeting due to be held in Tunis on 24 March to enable us to adopt a common Arab stance on it," he said.

Questioned in this connection on Tunisian-American relations and on the U.S. stance on the Middle East crisis, Hedi Mabrouk said that Tunisia has relations of solidarity and affection with the United States, to which our country is still grateful for its support in securing our independence and for the aid given to our development effort. However, friendship does not necessarily mean subordination and we jealously guard our own choices.

With regard to Tunisia's stance on the deployment of Syrian forces in Beirut, Hedi Mabrouk said that our country supports anything likely to end the camps war and to promote the establishment of a climate of peace and harmony in fraternal Lebanon, adding that any action taken must be taken with complete respect for Lebanon's sovereignty.

The Iraq-Iran War [subhead]

Hedi Mabrouk said that the war which has been fought for nearly 7 years now between two neighboring Muslim countries which "certainly have other things to do than devote themselves to a fratricidal war," is a "disaster for the Islamic world." "Tunisia has condemned this war from the start and expressed its bitterness about it," Hedi Mabrouk said, stressing the urgent need to end the fighting first and negotiate later.

"Iraq," he explained, "has expressed its readiness to end this war, but Iran is imposing conditions relating to the choice of regime and leaders in Iraq, and this is unacceptable."

The solution to this conflict, Hedi Mabrouk said, must be found in the framework of the UN Security Council, and, in this connection, he expressed the hope that the efforts being made by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, who enjoys great credibility in both Iraq and Iran, will be successful.

Afro-Arab and Euro-Arab Dialogue [subhead]

Questioned on the development of Afro-Arab dialogue, the foreign minister described the progress made in the sphere of cooperation between the Arab and African countries as considerable, recalling that the Arab world has contributed 9 billion dollars to Africa's development effort.

"This cooperation will be continued, and Afro-Arab meetings are already planned," he said.

With regard to Euro-Arab dialogue, Mr Mabrouk referred to its decline in the early eighties as a result of problems concerning Palestinian participation.

"However," he said, "following the recent statement by the 12 EEC member-countries, there are new prospects for this dialogue which the Arab states will capitalize on at the forthcoming meeting of the Arab League Council of Ministers."

Hedi Mabrouk also said that, on President Bourguiba's instructions, he will visit the European Parliament, and in April will make an official visit to the United States at the invitation of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. At that point, he will travel to Canada, where he will sign cooperation agreements between the two countries.

CHAD

Sandstorm Stops Libyan Retreat From Faya-Largeau

AU261851 Paris AFP in English 1845 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Paris, March 26 (AFP) — A sandstorm Thursday delayed the retreat of Libyan troops from Faya-Largeau in northern Chad as well as a final assault on the palm grove by forces of President Hissein Habre, Western and Chadian sources said here.

Meanwhile, Ndjamena said Libyan warplanes bombed Zouar, in the northern Tibesti region, which is between Faya-Largeau and south Libya, and that Chadian forces attacked a Libyan column in the same region killing 19 Tripoli troops.

Some Paris sources said some Chadian Government troops were already in the 80 kilometre (50 mile) long grove which is the last strategic Libyan base in northern Chad. Faya-Largeau became vulnerable after Chadian forces took the Ouadi Doum airbase last weekend, inflicting heavy casualties on Libyan troops.

The estimated 2,500 Libyans at Faya-Largeau, about 800 kilometres (500 miles) northeast of Ndjamena, were reported to have started their evacuation early Wednesday after exploding fuel and ammunition dumps in the base. [passage omitted]

GUNT Claims 'Thousands' Killed in Ouadi Doum

LD261147 Tripoli JANA in English 1046 GMT 26 Mar 87

["Communique by Chad Legitimate National Unity Government on the Fights of Ouadi Doum and Ouadi Namous" – JANA headline]

[Text] Bardai, Al-Marikh 26, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Dr. Fasho Bal'am, the foreign minister of Chad legitimate National Unity Government read a communique to *French News Agency*, *Reuters* and African Radio No 1. The communique reads:

To face the campaign of lies waged by imperialist press quarters on the fights in Ouadi Doum and Ouadi Namous, the Chadian Government of National Unity stresses that these fights were waged by the troops of the National Liberation Army of the National Unity Government against French, Zairean, American and puppet Habre's troops. The American soldiers were blacks.

In his communique, Dr. Bal'am has stressed that the corpses of thousands of the enemy's troops are still lying in the desert of Ouadi Doum and Ouadi Namous, apart from the fact that a large number of the enemy's troops have been captured at the hands of the troops of the Chadian National Liberation Army of Chad National Unity Government.

He continues that several motorized convoys of the enemy have been destroyed and have been left in the battle-field. [words indistinct] he adds, will be (?invited) to witness the results of the above fights.

Bardai Radio Says 60 Dead in GUNT Attack

LD261423 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Radio Bardai announced last night that a GUNT patrol has launched a successful attack in the Ati region, killing 60 enemy troops, wounding 23 others, blowing up an ammunition dump, and destroying 3 vehicles, including a Toyota. A large truck was also destroyed. The post commandant, Ibrahim Kahbachi, as well as Yusuf Hassabalah, the regional commander of the police force, and Tahar Sandene, the administrative official in charge of the region, were killed.

In addition, another patrol destroyed a radar station east of Abeche Airport.

GHANA

GDR Government Delegation Meets With Asante King

AB261058 Accra International Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] The visiting three-member GDR Government delegation has paid a courtesy call on the Asantehene [king of the Asante tribe], Otumfuo Opoku Ware, at the Manhyia Palace in Kumasi. In a speech, the Asantehene expressed satisfaction with the work of (Lemeckxbau), the GDR contractors handling the Kumasi roads rehabilitation project. He hoped the contract would be extended to cover all the roads in the city. The Asantehene thanked the GDR for the assistance to the country, and expressed the hope that it would further strengthen the cordial relations between the two countries.

The leader of the delegation, Mr Hans Joachim Heusinger, said the purpose of the visit, primarily, is to consolidate the bonds of friendship between Ghana and the GDR. The delegation is very happy to be in the country, to be acquainted with the way of life of Ghanaians. Mr Heusinger, who is the minister of justice, spoke of the determination of the GDR Government to achieve world peace.

Members of the delegation had earlier paid a courtesy call on the regional secretary, Colonel E.M. Osei-Wusu. They also inspected the road network being constructed by (Lemeckxbau). The delegation was accompanied by the attorney general and secretary for justice, Mr G.E.K. Aikins, and the GDR ambassador, Mr Everhart.

LIBERIA

Corrections to List of New Official Appointees

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "Doe Appoints Acting Ministers, Other Officials," published in the 25 March Middle East and Africa *Daily Report*, page T 1. Paris AFP in French at 0955 GMT on 26 March allows for clarifications to the phonetic rendition of the following personal names:

Second name: Mr Emmanuel Z. Bowier
Twelfth name: Mr Troboe Kparghai
Fourteenth name: Mr Samuel D. Brownell
Sixteenth name: Mr Isaac Wiles

NIGERIA

Sokoto State Schools To Reopen 28 March

AB261111 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Post primary and tertiary institutions, closed down in Sokoto state early this month, are to reopen on Saturday [28 March]. All the institution heads have, therefore, been directed to ensure that normal academic activities resume on Monday.

The schools were closed down to prevent a spillover effect of the disturbances in neighboring states.

SENEGAL

Diouf Comments on Chad, Economy, Domestic Issues

PM251520 Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Mar 87 p 7

[Interview with Senegalese President Abdou Diouf by Laurent Zecchini in Dakar — date not given]

[Text] Dakar — [Zecchini] You were one of the first heads of state to clearly say Chad was the victim of a Libyan aggression....

[Diouf] I have been saying that to Al-Qadhdhafi for a long time. When I received him in 1985, I told him that he should withdraw his troops. I believe Libya attacked Chad and that it should withdraw completely from that country. However, I understand the problem of the Aozou Strip. So, I said to the Libyans: "Withdraw from Chad, aside from the Aozou Strip, and then you and Chad can ask the International Court of Justice to give a ruling on that problem."

[Zecchini] But, in view of the fact that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi does not seem to heed diplomatic language, do you believe France should intervene in the conflict and force the Libyan troops to leave Chad, and would Senegal be prepared to participate in an intermediary force?

[Diouf] I agree that France should constantly increase its aid to President Hissein Habre to enable him to reconquer the northern part of his country, and I am in favor of France maintaining its existing force to prevent any Libyan invasion south of the 16th Parallel. With regard to the north, President Habre must be able to reconquer his territory, and hence he must be given all the necessary means, including air defense weapons and sufficiently sophisticated antitank weapons. I will not go further than that.... With regard to the second question, I would not like people to say: "Yes, President Abdou Diouf is a nice man, but he is not prepared to make a sacrifice." I am prepared to do so. If Africa agrees to create an intermediary force in Chad to enable Libya to leave and to separate the Chadian and Libyan troops, I am prepared to send Senegalese troops.

[Zecchini] Your country has been "making ends meet" for several years thanks to massive international aid. Is Senegal doomed to being a assisted country forever?

[Diouf] I believe major progress is never achieved amid noise and fuss. Our recovery plan is slowly but surely bearing fruit. In 1986, Senegal had a growth rate of 4.6 percent in real terms. The state and individuals in Senegal lived beyond their means and nobody saved for many years. We had a savings rate of 7.5 percent in 1986. This is not much, but it indicates the trend. Our harvests are improving. We must still make sacrifices.... Senegal will need the help of its friends for a few years to come, but I believe the course we are following is the only possible one.

[Zecchini] What is your view of the role played by the IMF and the World Bank in your country?

[Diouf] I told them from the start of the negotiations: You can ask me to do anything but cut my own throat. I was not referring to a desire to stay in power, but to my country's political and social balance. I believe people who talk in terms of policies dictated and imposed by the IMF and the World Bank know nothing about the real situation in our country. We are discussing the matter! We know we must make sacrifices but not sacrifices that will create too much pressure.

[Zecchini] The opposition believes Senegalese democracy has become entirely superficial. You had a meeting with Mr Wade, the main opposition leader, a few days ago you. It seems the meeting did not go very well....

[Diouf] A large section of this opposition is irresponsible, and I mean that. When I became president of the Republic in 1981, I was not obliged to make Senegal a full pluralist democracy. I am certain that in any election, however fair, they will make allegations of fraud if they lose after all their bragging! I do not deny the fact that there was fraud in 1983. I deny Abdoulaye Wade's right to say that there is less democracy now than there was before.

All sincere observers know there is more democracy today. However, Mr Wade's problem is how to gain power. He recently accused me of wanting to put him in prison because I want to get rid of him to avoid having him run against me in the elections.... However, he omits to say that in 1982, when he was involved in a very serious matter with Libya, I took a very kind attitude, although the affair could have been seen as an attack on the state's internal security and could have come under the State Security Court's jurisdiction. I did not do that precisely because I did not want Mr Wade to have problems before the elections. He was grateful to me and wrote to thank me. He has said very serious things against the president of the Republic since then and I did not take proceedings against him, but the public prosecutor's office reacted, and he was subsequently charged. Our country is governed by law. I will apply the whole Constitution and all the laws to ensure that the elections are as honest and open as possible.

[Zecchini] Does this mean the electoral code will not be revised?

[Diouf] No. You cannot spend your life revising the electoral code. I have already revised it.

[Zecchini] The press occasionally talks about the danger of Muslim fundamentalism in Senegal. Are you worried about this?

[Diouf] Not at all. It does not exist in my country. Senegal is a country that follows the Sunni tradition, and the Muslims are therefore calm and well-balanced. Our Islam is one of brotherhood. We have general caliphs who control the Muslims, who are legitimists, and who are in favor of the separation of church and state, so to speak.

[Zecchini] Do you not believe that foreign countries are exerting an influence?

[Diouf] Iran tried and I closed the embassy. Libya tried and we broke off diplomatic relations. I know that some Senegalese politicians have links abroad with regimes that are not democratic, and I know that the leaders of these regimes are giving them financial help to fight me. I do not see how you can claim to be liberal and simultaneously take money from Mr al-Qadhdhafi.

[Zecchini] Can you be more specific?

[Diouf] No, but you know as well as I do that everyone says this. And I hope the European liberals will be aware of this inconsistency. How can you have it both ways?

[Zecchini] This subject seems to annoy you....

[Diouf] I am annoyed and disappointed, but I am vigilant. I want it to be quite clear that I will not accept people trying to come to power by anything but democratic means.

[Zecchini] You have just received Mr Chirac in Dakar. Are Franco-Senegalese relations as excellent and close as people have said?

[Diouf] That is the perfect description. We have no disagreements on bilateral affairs. Of course, things may be progressing rather slowly in some spheres. I am thinking, for instance, about the veterans' question, to which we attach importance. I detected goodwill on Mr Chirac's part in connection with this question.

[Zecchini] With regard to the question of visas, which are now compulsory for Senegalese visiting France, do you believe Senegal should have been exempted from this measure?

[Diouf] Yes, of course, in view of the very special relations between our two countries. We believe we could have been exempted and, failing that, we ask that our visa applications be examined in a particularly favorable light. Moreover, I believe this is happening. But, what has shocked us is the fact that Senegalese equipped with proper visas have been refused entry into France.

SIERRA LEONE

President Orders Borders Temporarily Closed

AB261631 Paris AFP in French 1539 GMT 26 Mr 87

[Text] Freetown, 26 Mar (AFP) — President Joseph Momoh today ordered the temporary closure of Sierra Leone's borders with Guinea and Liberia while the police are actively searching for two officers who authorities claim were involved in Monday's coup attempt. During his first official meeting with youth and women of the ruling All People's Congress Party at the Presidency, President Momoh said two officers, whom he did not name, were the only members of a group of 40 plotters — which includes policemen and civilians — who have not yet been arrested. The police also announced today that they are still looking for a minister who could help in the enquiry.

Since the attempt to overthrow him, President Momoh has not stepped out of his residence, leaving this task to the second vice president, Abu Kamara, who opened the conference of

ECOWAS tourism ministers on Wednesday and inaugurated a tanker belonging to the national oil company today.

The party newspaper, *We Yone*, reported the coup attempt today without comment. The paper named 16 people, mainly soldiers and policemen, who have been detained at the central prison on Pademba Road in the capital, but it pointed out that the list was incomplete.

The paper also gave the list of arms and ammunition seized at the home of the alleged coup leader, ex-policeman Mohamed Kaikai. These include mortars, communication equipment, fatigues and military uniforms, as well as charms. A large sum of money was allegedly found in the house where Kaikai was arrested.

The authorities have announced that the victim of the crossfire on Monday, 23 March, was a driver, Adam Rogers. Although officials refuse to refer to aspects of civilian participation in the coup, it appears to observers that high-level personalities financed the coup attempt.

The atmosphere is calm in Freetown where offices, shops, and other activities have resumed at a normal pace in spite of the gas shortage that has affected the movement of vehicles.

ANGOLA

Romania's Ceausescu To Pay Visit 28-30 March

MB260814 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 2300 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, will make an official and friendly visit to the People's Republic of Angola this month. According to a communique from the Angolan Ministry of External Relations, the visit will take place 28-30 March, following an invitation by Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola.

MPLA-Labor Party Delegation Departs for Mexico

MB260812 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 2300 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] An MPLA-Labor Party delegation led by Central Committee member Joao Lourenco left for the Republic of Mexico today. While in Mexico City, the Angolan delegation will attend the Third Unified Socialist Party of Mexico Congress, which began yesterday and will end on 29 March.

MOZAMBIQUE

Renamo Advises Withdrawal of Workers on Railway

LD252058 Lisbon International Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Renamo today advised Portugal to withdraw its technicians working on the Nacala railway in Mozambique, stating that the impending arrival of troops form Malawi to protect the line will cause an intensification of the war in the region.

Speaking at a news conference in Lisbon, Renamo's spokesman in Europe, Paulo Oliveira, said he had received a message in the early hours of this morning from the guerrilla's headquarters in Mozambique to the effect that Malawi troops are about to enter Mozambique to protect the Nacala railway line.

It will be recalled that Portugal is participating in the restoration of the line with a 40 million dollar investment and Portuguese technicians are working at the site.

SOUTH AFRICA

Party Spokesmen Review Defense Spending

MB252107 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1830 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Report on separate interviews with Jaap Marais, leader of the HNP; Prof Nic Olivier, PFP MP; Koos van der Merwe, CP MP; and Minister of Defense General Magnus Malan of the NP, by Barbara Fouche, Jannie Botes, Riaan Nel, and unidentified reporter, on the "Network" program, introduced by Kolie van Koller; video recorded passages in quotation marks]

[Text] [Van Koller] In tonight's election feature we focus on the country's defense. Members of our political staff asked NP, CP, PFP, and HNP representatives to give their views on military capability, the role of the Defense Force, and military spending.

[Marais] "The HNP believes our military capability is very high. We have a very effective military and security force quite capable of dealing with the security situation. I believe political will to use military preparedness to its maximum effect is not very good. We must increase political will to actually fight and win the war, if we wish to act effectively.

[Fouche] "What do you think the role of the Defense Force in particular, and that of the security forces in general, should be in maintaining the country's constitutional system?

[Marais] "The security forces and the military play a major role in maintaining law and order in the country. If there are elements in the country who want to make the country ungovernable and want to overthrow order, the state has the full right not only to police the situation but also to call in the Defense Force to maintain that law and order. We believe there are such elements in South Africa, and the actions of the security forces, in this regard, have our full support.

[Fouche] "How high would you rank military defense of the country as a priority in state spending?

[Marais] "We rank military defense very high because we believe we are involved in a war that has been going on for 20 years and that will eventually be won or lost. We cannot afford to lose this war, and, if it becomes necessary to spend more on the defense budget, then it must be done. We also believe this war has its own rules, this terrorist war. It is a war that must be fought not only with military weapons but also by other means. We believe that if the defense budget has to be enlarged to make provision for fighting this war in other ways, it will be fully justified and will have our approval."

[Olivier] "Purely from a military standpoint, I believe one must accept that the SADF has good leadership, effective leadership, and that it has weapons of the very best quality, largely due to the work done by ARMSCOR [Armaments Corporation Development and Production]. So, in terms of military capability in South Africa, there is no problem if we accept that the primary duty of the Defense Force is to protect the country against outside aggression. I believe that as far as that is concerned, our defense is able to meet any possible onslaught from the outside.

[Reporter] "What should be the role of the security forces to, first, maintain the present political system, and second, to defend that system?

[Olivier] "Look, let me say at the outset that in any democratic country, it is primarily the police force's duty to implement the government policy of the day, and it is the duty of the police force to maintain law and order. Normally it is accepted that the Defense Force is there to counter aggresion from outside the

country, as I just said. In other words, I believe it is a basic mistake to involve the Defense Force in the maintenance and application of internal policy, that is, in terms of maintaining law and order, you understand? You see, the Defense Force is trained to think in terms of enemies, right? Enemies who pose a threat to the security of state. So when the Defense Force has to fulfill that role, it means that it is politicizing itself. Everyone who is then opposed to the Defense Force in that role then becomes an enemy of the Defense Force, and then the Defense Force itself comes under suspicion.

[Reporter] "Are you speaking hypothetically, or are you commenting on the present situation in the country?

[Olivier] "Just commenting on our present situation. I believe it is very wrong to involve the Defense Force in this kind of situation. But let me add that I believe a problem has arisen because I believe the police force is hopelessly undermanned and underpaid.

[Reporter] "Where would you place military spending as a priority in the budget?

[Olivier] "Let me make it very clear: we are not at war, and therefore the share of the budget going to defense must be measured against other priorities. One of the first priorities, in my opinion, is that we must work towards developing the economy."

[Van der Merwe] "The country's political capability is not good because the policies of National Party — which is the government's — is about to collapse. It has split on the right and is splitting on the left. It has internal problems. It does not have a model with which to face the future, and what worries me is that this uncertainty is being transferred onto our military capability. You are finding the National Party's model of integration in the Defense Force. A black man can become head of the Defense Force; there is integration in the Defense Force, they eat and sleep together, and I am worried about the negative effects on the Defense Force's capability. But if we put this aside then I am happy that South Africa's Defense Force has the best soldiers, the best weapons, and the best morale to resist any onslaught on our fatherland.

[Botes] "The role of the Defense Force and the security forces which are responsible for maintaining law and order, and protecting the country's constitutional and political systems — how do you view this?

[Van der Merwe] "If one asks what the duty of the Defense Force or the police is in upholding the Constitution or the political system, then I would make the following requirement: if the majority of white voters decide democratically on a constitution then the Defense Force and police must maintain that constitution.

[Botes] "Where would you rank military defense of South Africa on a list of priorities?

[Van der Merwe] "If you have to put military issues on a priority list of expenditures, then it brings you to the problem of the budget. There are many factors to take into consideration, but it is my view that while we are involved in a war situation, we should definitely spend a large portion of our budget on military issues. That is why I am convinced that it should enjoy a high priority, and if necessary we should spend even more money to defend our beautiful country and all its people."

[Malan] "Let me begin by saying that our country's military capability is outstanding. There are actually three factors according to which I measure that. First, the arms industry which we have established here in the country. We have an arms industry today that is self-sufficient, which is due to the state president's far-sightedness. Second, we have developed certain weapons systems today to the point where we are a world leader. Third, this arms industry has greatly contributed to our country's technological development.

Another fact one must consider when discussing military capability is the factor of the training and opportunities the Defense Force provides for its men and how that is used. As you know, our country is facing a revolutionary onslaught. In other words, the SADF and the SAP are being deployed in areas where they can apply their theoretical knowledge. They are gaining experience and exposure. I could say: they are battle proven. [preceding four words in English] Yet another factor is the human material available. Their attitude, the patriotism in the security forces is unbelievable, especially when one thinks of their talents, their qualities, their skills, people who are prepared to make sacrifices for their country.

[Nel] "Gen Malan, what is your opinion of the country's political capability?

[Malan] "Well, I believe we have gone through very deep waters in the past 2 years, especially when we analyze the revolutionary onslaught against the country, as it has crystallized in local unrest. We must also consider economic measures applied against us. I am referring particularly to legislation approved by the U.S. Congress. I hope that the coming election will play an important role, first by making the public aware of this actual, formidable challenge which we will have to convert into opportunities — the revolutionary onslaught as well as the punitive economic measures. I also hope the election will create a greater awareness and appreciation of these challenges facing the country.

[Nel] "What is your view on the role of the security forces maintaining and protecting the country's constitutional and political system?

[Malan] "The security forces are an instrument of the state. They are responsible for the security of the state, of the group, and also of the individual. This includes ensuring that people are free and safe from physical violence, from terror, from psychological intimidation. That speaks volumes, and it is not an easy task, and yet our security forces are achieving tremendous success in this regard.

[Nel] "Should the military be given special priority?

[Malan] "You know, it is very difficult to try to express the survival and continued existence of a country in terms of financial spending, especially when one thinks in terms of our situation here in southern Africa, where we have the Russian presence, where we have communists and their surrogate forces, expanding and enlarging. The SADF would fail in its duty if it did not also take this foreign phenomenon into account. In other words, it cannot allow this threat to go unchallenged.

[Nel] "Despite what you have just said, it is still claimed that South Africa's defense budget is too large.

[Malan] "You must bear in mind that we are maintaining a peacetime economy, while simultaneously dealing with a revolutionary onslaught and a buildup of weapons on the subcontinent. With that in mind, I can tell you that the defense spending of the Republic of South Africa is in fact very small. Small when compared with international standards. As you know, our defense spending, as a percentage of state spending, is only 16.8 percent; that figure remains more or less constant from year to year. But if you compare this to other countries, you will find that defense spending in the United States is 27 percent, and it is not at war. Israel's defense budget is 39 percent and West Germany, 22 percent. Angola, 51 percent, yet South Africa's is only 16.8 percent. In other words, we spend very little when compared to overseas [as heard] countries."

President Botha Promises Help to Farmers

MB260644 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 0430 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, says more agricultural financial assistance must be proviced to the country's farmers. Mr Botha, in his first election meeting speech at Lichtenburg last night, spoke of the measures required to revive the agricultural sector of the economy.

[Begin Botha video recording] We shall not disparage what we have already done. We have already provided 237 million rand to be spent this year. However, extra steps are required to put the agricultural economy on a sound financial footing. [applause]

We are working on various programs, but it is not something you can resolve in one morning. There is need to cooperate with the Agricultural Union, the Land Bank, and other related authorities if the solution to the problem is to be found quickly. The interpretation of Article 10 of the Land Act has to be adapted to fit the existing conditions to benefit the farmers. [applause] I also think we must consider ways of getting our young farmers started on a sound financial footing. [applause]

The government is considering additional help to farmers in the corn meal industry, who have suffered because of the reduced price of corn on world markets and the problems associated with this.

With this in mind, the government will consider raising the price of corn meal products this year. [applause][end video recording]

White Voters Roll Grows by Over 1 Million

MB252053 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The House of Assembly's voters roll for the 6 May election has grown by about a million voters since the last election. The just over 1 million names are the most in the House's history. The list is ready for circulation following around the clock work by the Department of Home Affairs and the state printing house over the last few weeks, preparing it to go to press.

The state printing house has printed between 300 and 500 copies of the voters roll for each of the country's 166 constituencies. In this 5-week-old giant project, 1700 km of paper and 10,500 printing plates were used. The names and addresses, as well as identity number, of the country's more than 3 million white voters are included on the rolls.

The minister of home affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, and the director general of home affairs, Mr Gerrie van Zyl, visited the printing house today. The task will be completed by next Friday, 27 March, and copies will be delivered to regional offices of the Department of Home Affairs.

Heunis Reacts to Independents' Manifesto

MB261511 Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 26 Mar 87 p 10

[Text] Cape Town — The plea of the ex-Nat Independents for equal rights, justice and safety for all was already National Party policy, Mr Chris Heunis, minister of consitutional development and planning, said yesterday.

"Their manifesto calls for negotiations aimed at the common, overriding objective of one South Africa with equal rights, justice and safety for all.

"This is not only National Party policy, but the government has been actively pursuing it."

Mr Heunis said the manifesto called for a flexible programme for real political progress, and this should be free of dogma.

"Many of the Independents' sentiments in this regard are recorded in Hansard under my own name."

The minister dismissed suggestions that a judge should be appointed to collate and publish all available constitutional options.

"This is an insult to the judiciary. Judges don't collect and summarise documents — research assistants do that.

"This suggestion is too stupid to deserve serious consideration."

The Independents also called for the scrapping of all discriminatory legislation, including the Group Areas Act.

In this regard, the government had repeatedly stated that discriminatory laws and by-laws should be scrapped. It had provided sufficient proof of its sincerity, said Mr Heunis.

The Group Areas Act was not in itself discriminatory. But this did not mean that there were no instances of its application in a discriminatory fashion, which was clearly unacceptable.

The Act was at present being investigated by the President's Council.

The State President had said the Act was not a "sacred cow", but groups were entitled to an own community life and this right should be adequately protected.

Mr Heunis's comments on the manifesto were distributed in a National Party constituency newspaper yesterday.

It also accused Dr Denis Worrall, Independent candidate in Helderberg, of "a slap in the face" for KwaZulu Chief Minister, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who had appealed to white political parties "not to make the KwaZulu-Natal Indaba proposals a political football for party political gain" in the election campaign.

PFP's Suzman Affirms Strong Security Stance

MB262016 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] The PFP member for Houghton, Mrs Helen Suzman, has denied allegations that her party doesn't believe in enforcing security laws strongly. Mrs Suzman was replying to a question during a public meeting in Johannesburg yesterday.

[Begin Suzman recording] We will not be soft on security at all. Anybody, any organization, any party that preaches and practices violence or subversion will be hauled before the courts and will be subject to the law of the land. There is an ordinary criminal law in this country. I can't just go around throwing stones at people, but I believe that people have got to be tried in a court of law and found guilty before they are locked up. So we will restore the rule of law, but we are not soft on security; on the contrary, we are as adamant about the maintenance of law and order under the proper aegis, as any democratic government would be. [end recording]

Screening of Documentary on Apartheid Approved

MB261224 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1053 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Johannesburg March 26 SAPA — The internationally acclaimed documentary, *Witness to Apartheid*, has been conditionally unbanned in South Africa.

The film has been nominated for an Oscar in the best documentary category at the Academy Awards ceremony to be held in Hollywood early next week. It has been widely screened in Europe and America.

The Publications Appeal Board announced today the film may be viewed without cuts, at indoor cinemas seating 200 people or less. The particular cinemas would be specified after the producers had given certain information. The board has specified an age restriction of 2-18 years.

Giving their reasons in a statement, the board said the film was directed at sophisticated audiences. "The board is of the view that the likely audiences would be able to distinguish between that which is clearly one-sided and opinions expressed honestly. It is not likely to incite the audiences to racial hatred or to further violence. In fact, the film does not set out to do this. Like most political pleas however, the film is biased in favour of the cause of those who are said to be suffering. The case is often overstated. Nothing is said which would favour the opposite point of view or explain the underlying reasons for certain occurrences.

"In conclusion, the truths in the film should be allowed to speak for themselves, as should the cliches, of which there are many obvious ones. The one-sided presentation and lack of balance is unfortunate, but is likely to be counter-productive."

The decision was reached unanimously by the board.

The film's producer, Miss Sharon Sopher, and co-producer, Mr Kevin Harris, are in Hollywood for the ceremony and could not be reached for comment.

Strike Talks Postponed as Workers Fail To Show

MB252038 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2030 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Johannesburg, March 25, SAPA — There were no talks today between South African Transport Services [SATS] and representatives of the nearly 10,000 railwaymen on strike at SATS depots across the Witwatersrand.

Negotiations aimed at ending the 13-day dispute over the dismissal of a driver at SATS City Deep container depot were scheduled to resume today, but SATS public relations officer Mr Jannie van Zyl said there had been no developments. "We had no discussions or negotiations today. There was a meeting organised for this morning, but no shop stewards or representatives turned up," he said. "We have left the door open for them to come. We will be there at City Deep at 7 am tomorrow again.

Mr van Zyl was unaware of a statement by the South African Railways and Harbours Workers Union [SARHWU] that workers from 12 depots were meeting today to draw up a revised set of demands, which it intended putting to SATS this afternoon.

The union announced it would attempt to broaden the talks by sending representatives from other depots affected to the talks this afternoon. "Workers are asking for full pay for the period on strike, no victimisation of strikers, a statement of intent by SATS to abolish discrimination and the unconditional re-instatement of the dismissed worker as preconditions to going back to work," a SARHWU spokesman said.

"We don't have discussions with SARHWU," Mr van Zyl said. "We haven't talked to their representatives. We are talking to our shop stewards and representative people elected by our employees."

He said the SATS "representatives" had submitted proposals on Monday which had been accepted by SATS. "Management went out of its way to accept these proposals — some were not acceptable at first." Mr van Zyl stressed the proposals had been submitted to SATS, not by them and had been typed out, formalised, double-checked and finally accepted. "But they (the respresentatives) came back on Tuesday morning and said no go — the group rejected the whole proposal." "We said the door is still open, they must come with other proposals. We talked the whole of Tuesday, but in the end there was no solution."

Mr van Zyl said he would not like to divulge the contents of the proposals as this might jeopardise future discussions.

Mr van Zyl was unaware of a statement issued today by South Africa's largest labour federation, COSATU, to which SARHWU is affiliated. COSATU said SARHWU had conducted the SATS strike in a disciplined way, even though SATS was refusing to deal with the union, and called on SATS to negotiate in good faith "with workers and their union, and pay immediate attention to overhauling their entire labour relations practices."

Mr van Zyl said he would comment on the COSATU statement once he had seen the text, a copy of which was sent to him by SAPA.

Radio Views Soviet Presence in Southern Africa

MB270537 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Soviet Union's buildup of military power last year went far beyond legitimate requirements for defense. That's the assessment of the United States Defense Department, as published in its annual review of Soviet military power. The review from the Pentagon adds these words: It is clear that the Soviet Union is fully capable of simultaneous aggression in multiple regions of the world and of threatening our vital interests.

That warning is as relevant to southern Africa as to any other region. The Soviet Union's involvement in sub-Saharan Africa — according to the Pentagon — remained high last year, with support for Angola continuing to be a priority. Sophisticated fighter aircraft, helicopters, surface-to-air missiles, tanks, artillery pieces, and armored vehicles poured into Angola from Iron Curtain countries last year. American defense experts confirm a view long held by other strategists: that the MPLA government in Angola cannot survive without the Cuban mercenary troops and other communist support.

Turning to Moscow, the Pentagon review says that the Renamo movement is a serious threat to the Frelimo government and that in return for increased support to the government the Soviet Union might demand naval and air bases in Mozambique. Such a development would have grave implications for the security and stability of southern Africa as a whole. Another serious security implication is contained in the Pentagon's comment that the communists favor military aid above economic aid because military aid can be controlled and possibly used against neighboring states.

The communist penetration of southern Africa today is deep and the consequent destabilization of the sub-continent ominous. The spectre of potential military aggression by the Soviet Union or its surrogates hangs heavily over southern Africa. In the West, Angola is a huge arsenal of modern, sophisticated weapons and its government is entirely reliant on communist powers. In the East, Mozambique is a country in turmoil with a rickety government and is — from Moscow's point of view — ripe for the picking.

For South Africa, the need is for preparedness and resoluteness. There is a need, as well, for the countries of southern Africa to abandon hostile postures and to extend to each other the hand of friendship — so that the Soviet Union's strategy of destabilization can be countered and stability and security promoted throughout the subcontinent.

Information Bureau Issues 26 March Unrest Report

MB270829 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0819 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria March 27 SAPA — The Bureau for Information's unrest report for the period 0001 to 2400 March 26:

"Unrest-related incidents during the above mentioned period comprised a petrol bomb attack on a private home in Guguletu (Cape Town) and stonings which mainly occurred in KwaMashu (Durban). No injuries or arrests and minimal damage were reported."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB270640 [Editorial Report]

CITIZEN on CP-HNP Alliance Failure

Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 26 March says in its page 6 editorial that "it seems that the CP is playing for bigger stakes than that of becoming the Official Opposition now. It wants to be the sole Right-wing party after the election and hopes the HNP's failure will mean the end of it." "From the National Party point of view, the collapse of the CP-HNP negotiations is a relief, since the split in the Right-wing vote will ensure that the CP will not win as many seats as it might have done. The State President, Mr P.W. Botha, who called the election primarily to prevent the Right-wing consolidating its ranks ahead of a poll, has confirmed that he is a masterly political strategist."

STAR on Debt Rescheduling Agreement

A page 12 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 26 March notes that "the cheers that have greeted South Africa's debt rescheduling agreement are perhaps louder than they would have been had it superseded and not preceded the election. That

the terms arranged by the financial authorities are better than might have been expected cannot be denied." "We could just squander this opportunity as has happened before. But, for the moment, we must hope that this mild return of confidence is based on things more substantial than simply the swing of an economic (and emotional) pendulum. Pretoria must take great care not to disappoint the country — and the world — in the way it has done on many occasions in the past."

Criticism of SABC Staff Political Bias

"The SABC news staff has voted unanimously to reject allegations of bias in the corporation's election coverage," notes a second editorial on the same page. But, "a study by Rhodes University shows that the National Party received more air time on TV1 news and 'Network' last week than any other political party or alliance." The paper asks how the staff achieved such unanimity. "Were they warned, as *The Star* has been informed, that a dissenting view could invite retribution from their seniors? If they were offered that conditional option, their sanguine views on news slant would be understandable — but not necessarily credible."

BUSINESS DAY on Debt Rescheduling Agreement

"The debt rescheduling agreement announced on Tuesday by the minister of finance has been the catalyst for a revival of spirits in the business community, but it was preceded by an extraordinary performance by the real economy which produced an annualised current account surplus of about R13bn in the fourth quarter of last year," says a page 8 editorial in Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 26 March. "The fact that the debt rescheduling agreement was unveiled by the minister of finance rather than by the officials is an indication that government will squeeze whatever credit it can from the good news. That is understandable, if ironical in the case of a finance minister who will not take responsibility for the poor performance of the economy. But the bottom line remains economic growth which will produce jobs and raise living standards. Until that is achieved, our joy should not be unconfined."

Independent To Help Afrikaner Attitude

Dominique Gilbert writes on the same page that "the most rewarding role Stellenbosch independent candidate Dr Esther Lategan believes she can play in the coming white election is to help Afrikaners abandon their 'socialised way of thinking.'" "Together, the independents believe in negotiating a future for SA with other groups in such a way that the aspirations of all people are accommodated." "Lategan believes like-minded people should get together to negotiate on the basis that race discrimination does not exist. Unlike right-wing fears that May 6 may see 'the last white election,' Lategan believes 'no one in their right mind will disagree the NP will still be in power after the election.' But her hopes are pinned on 1989 and a strong belief that there will be a major shift within white politics, in terms of which elements in the NP and PFP will join the independent trio's way of thinking."

CAPE TIMES: Group Areas Central Election Issue

A page 16 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 25 March says what makes the Group Areas Act issue damaging to NP election prospects "is the floundering confusion on group areas that abounds at the highest levels of government." "President P.W. Botha, who had been saying that the Group Areas Act was not a sacred cow, began retreating last year. Talk of reform faded. As some Nationalists of lesser eminence continued to make hopeful sounds, confusion became general. Within one 24-hour period recently one Nationalist candidate was reported as saying in emphatic terms that the Group Areas Act would stay. Another NP candidate, a sitting MP, was reported as saying almost precisely the opposite." "No wonder the enlightened Mr Pik Botha in his forthright if somewhat artless way is urging that the Group Areas Act should not be made an issue in the election. But it is an issue, whether Mr Botha likes it or not. In some ways, in fact, it is the central issue, bearing directly on political representation and constitutional negotiation and, indeed, on the future of South Africa."

Johnson on LP Dissent

"The two-pronged strategy of coercion and patronage that the government has settled upon in a bid to contain political dissent has produced what at first glance looks like period of relative calm," writes Anthony Johnson in the "Midweek Politics" column on the same page. But, "rumblings persist among the government's junior partners in the tricameral parliament despite the massive investments in patronage designed to cement the 'co-optive domination' arm of the broader strategy." "Disconsolate LP [Labor Party] MP's who originally entered the tricameral system in a bid to fight apartheid from within conceded this week that the party had been outmanoeuvered by the government." "Dissident MP's appear especially distressed by what they call 'the flexibility of principles' that has coloured LP participation in the system. They cite as examples the party's 'shocking' support for the state of emergency, its collusion with the NP in getting the President's Council report on the Group Areas Act delayed, and its willy-nilly endorsement of the apartheid-based Regional Services Councils. Some feel the party has been trapped into the old Federal Party strategy of winning spoils for their 'own group' through the distasteful promotion of 'coloured nationalism.'" Johnson says government strategists "may have won the first round but 'the next time around' could be another ball game entirely."

SOWETAN on Group Areas

"The Group Areas Act which is considered variously as a bedrock of National Party policy or one of its holy cows, is amoral, unworkable, expensive and must go," says the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 26 March. *Sowetan* believes the Group Areas Act "has been so scandalously prejudiced in favour of whites that it was simply a fraud. It has no business on the law books of any country that claims to be democratic." "South Africa is now hoist with its own obnoxious creation. Some Government people would simply like to see the Act disappear. They know the skies will not fall down. The Right-wing politicians realise that the Government has a problem and they are obviously going to exploit it to the full."

BURGER on Economic Prospects

Cape Town *Die Burger* in Afrikaans on 25 March says on a page 16 editorial that with the debt rescheduling agreement "the world is looking at South Africa with new eyes, and after months of isolation and hostility it is no longer the black sheep of the world bankers." The reason for this favorable development is that "the unrest in the country has diminished noticeably due to the

government's encompassing security measures, the economic prospects improve almost daily, and favorable expectations concerning a firm display from the NP and its reform policy are nurtured." "Even though South Africa has not shaken off the consequences of a recession, the economic prospects for this year are the best the country has had in a long time."

Avoiding ANC Not Solution

Correspondent Dawie writes in the "From My Political Pen" column on the same page that "the indignation which is displayed when a NP member refers to the ANC" is "an oddity which has emerged in this election campaign and should not be let out of control." Dawie points out that there are "opposition parties which protest loudly every time there is mention of the violent plans of the ANC or mention of the ANC attitude toward South African politics." The correspondent says "it is unthinkable that an election can be held in South Africa without the ANC and its role receiving pertinent attention." He believes there are "those who would prefer that the ANC and the attitude of certain political groups toward the ANC be locked up in a dark room for the duration of the election."

TRANSVALER: Too Much Focus on Right-Wing Unity

A page 14 editorial in Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 25 March says that "the news has greatly been dominated by the unpleasantness between the HNP and the CP and their inability to form an alliance." "The fact is that the importance of the election has been pushed from perspective because of this. It will be a pity if some voters get the impression that right-wing unity is one of the most important election issues." The paper points out that "what is at stake is a mandate, for the government which will be in power after 6 May, to rule the country in such a way as to ensure future progress and peace for all."

BEELD on Debt Rescheduling

"South Africa can again look its creditors in the eye," says Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 26 March in a page 24 editorial commenting on the new debt rescheduling agreement. "Bankers abroad have developed a compassion for the country. They realize now more than ever before that South Africa is no third rate country which is living above its capacity. South Africa's political opponents hopefully also realize that they cannot knock this country over easily. For South Africans who had a hard time economically, this is good news. It is also a slap in the face for every prophet of doom."

ZIMBABWE

Nicaragua's D'Escoto Says CIA Planning 'Sabotage'

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[Text] Harare, 26 March (ZIANA/PANA) — The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) plans to sabotage Nicaragua's power supply and communication lines in the next few months, the visiting Nicaraguan foreign minister, Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, said in Harare yesterday. He told a press conference before his scheduled departure later this evening that reports in U.S. daily, *The New York Times* revealed the CIA's plans to turn its attacks from slaughtering women and children to sabotaging the country's power supplies. The CIA had knowledge of Nicaragua's power supplies because they were intalled with U.S. aid during the Somoza dictatorship, he said.

He said his government would continue to look for peaceful means to settle the Central American situation. To that end, his country was retaining diplomatic ties with the United States and would not be provoked, he said.

On the Iran arms scandal, he said the affair had a demoralising impact on the contras and also revealed to the world that we are dealing with people who have no moral rights.

He expressed satisfaction at the actions being taken by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) concerning the Central American situation. NAM's foreign ministers would be visiting the U.S. cities of Washington and New York to express the movement's concern about the Nicaraguan plight to the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, he said. These we feel are important measures to make quite clear the movement's position, the minister said.

During his three-day visit, which is the beginning of an eight-nation African tour, Father Brockman held discussions with his Zimbabwean counterpart, Witness Mangwende, on ways of deepening bilateral relations between the two countries. They also discussed student and cultural exchange programmes.

Father Brockman now goes to Burkina Faso, Benin, Cote D'ivoire, Ghana, Congo, Zaire and Algiers.